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13-YEAR HUNT FOR SUSPECT ENDS IN STATES

A MAN wanted in connection with a brutal attack on his estranged wife and her new partner in Gillingham 13 years ago has been arrested in California, where he had taken on another name and identity.

Jaswinder Rana now faces extradition back to the county, but police fear they could be in for a drawn-out battle.

Detectives in Kent want to talk to the arrested man about the injuries suffered by the couple.

They were attacked by a man with a "bladed instrument" in an incident that left them both seriously injured and the boyfriend confined to a wheelchair.

It is believed Rana, 56, was not charged by police at the time of the alleged assault and fled overseas before he was even arrested.

Acting on information from Kent Police, Rana was arrested at his new home in San Jose on Monday, said a US Marshals Service spokesman. He was living with others under the name Suchet Singh, said Chris Hanson, a spokesman for the Marshals Service.

Officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were carrying out a surveillance operation on Rana. Detectives from Kent were in America at the time, but did not take part in the arrest.

Rana has already appeared before a

EXCLUSIVE

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

judge in a San Jose court and it has been reported that during the hearing on Tuesday he apparently made it clear he would not fight any extradition request from British authorities.

But the Kent Police source said the matter was proceeding and Rana could still use his right to appeal.

Speaking exclusively to Kent on Sunday, the Marshals Service said that in March, 1996, Rana's ex-wife Kirpal Rana and her boyfriend Amar Sandhu were attacked during an angry confrontation.

They both suffered head trauma and injuries to their upper bodies and, according to the US Marshals Service, Mr Sandhu was left wheelchair bound with limited use of his right hand.

The authorities believe Rana first travelled to France and then Canada before setting up a new home in the USA. He was identified and located in

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

**US Marshals
acting on Kent
Police tip-off
arrest Medway
man living in
California with
a new identity**

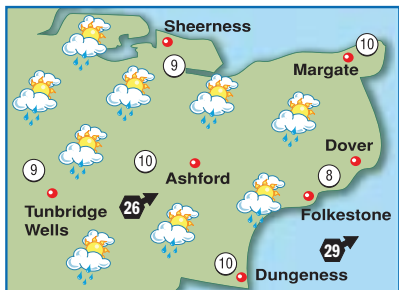


EXTRADITION: Jaswinder Rana is in custody

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Kent today



TODAY: Spells of sunshine but there will be areas of cloud which are likely to give a scattering of showers, some of these falling as hail. Feeling chillier. Strong south-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).
TONIGHT: Dry with clear spells and variable amounts of cloud. Strong westerly winds. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	8	46	London	fair	7	45
Belfast	hail	9	48	Liverpool	hail	9	48
Birmingham	showers	6	43	Manchester	hail	7	45
B'mouth	fair	8	46	Newcastle	fair	6	43
Bristol	showers	8	46	Norwich	fair	8	46
Cardiff	hail	7	45	Oxford	fair	8	46
Cork	sleet	6	43	Southsea	hail	9	48
Edinburgh	showers	6	43	S'hampton	fair	7	45
Glasgow	hail	6	43	Southport	sun	9	48
Isle of Man	fair	7	45	Swansea	hail	8	46
Leeds	sleet	5	41	Torquay	showers	8	46

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.25am	Sunset	5.48pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	2.37pm	Moonset	5.13am	5.48pm to 6.23am

High Tides

	today			tomorrow			
	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	09.00	5.9	21.27	6.1	09.54	6.2	22.14
Margate	09.57	4.3	22.15	4.3	10.55	4.6	23.06
St Mary's	02.21	4.9	14.54	5.0	03.17	5.3	15.44

Week ahead

monday Mostly dry. max 11C min 5C	thursday Showery. max 11C min 4C
tuesday Early rain. max 11C min 3C	friday Dull. Rain. max 10C min 3C
wednesday Clouding over. max 11C min 5C	saturday Showers. max 9C min 2C

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TV show reveals drama behind tourist attraction

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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A CLASH of interests at an historic country manor is being played out for all to see on national television.

The eight-part BBC Four series Sissinghurst focuses on the people who live at the popular tourist attraction and their struggle with the National Trust over how they feel it should be run.

Adam Nicolson and his wife Sarah Raven want the castle grounds' unused farming equipment to be put back to good use – much like it was after Mr Nicolson's grandmother Vita Sackville-West bought the land in 1930 – but face stiff opposition from the current owner.

The television series was made for the BBC by London-based KEO Films.

Producer and director Claire Whalley said she was pleased with the finished product and hoped audiences were enjoying going behind the scenes of one of Kent's best-loved landmarks.

She said: "It was a very difficult series to do because the National Trust set a schedule and we thought a lot more was going to happen during the year, but the farm idea never really took off.

"It does make for quite an interesting documentary though and I think all those involved learned something from the experience. Mr Nicolson for instance learned that when you are dealing with a big organisation like the National Trust, you can't rush them because their main priority is to con-



Picture: BBC/KEO FILMS/PENNY TWEEDIE, © NATIONAL TRUST PHOTO LIBRARY

LANDMARK: Sissinghurst was home to the flamboyant writer Vita Sackville-West

serve places like Sissinghurst and they don't make decisions lightly.

"But I hope audiences will see both sides of the coin and recognise that everybody wants the best for castle and its grounds."

Built during the Middle Ages, the original building at Sissinghurst was allowed to go to ruin by its Elizabethan owners who replaced it with a magnificent manor house.

Talented writer and gardener Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson bought the land in 1930, after which time she created a beautiful network of gardens that attract visitors from across the world.

After Mrs Sackville-West died in 1962, her son Nigel handed the property over to the

National Trust with the agreement the family could continue to live there.

While the BBC series focuses more on the property as it is today, Mrs Whalley said she felt the history of the land and its owners was what attracted television audiences the most.

She said: "I think people are interested in Sissinghurst for two reasons – firstly because it has some of the most famous gardens in the world and secondly because people are fascinated by Vita.

"She was a very colourful character and her marriage was interesting because she had about 45 lesbian affairs and her husband was gay as well."

• **Episodes five and six of Sissinghurst can be seen on BBC Four from 8pm tonight.**

House was watched in undercover operation

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

San Jose by ICE and the Marshals Service.

A Kent Police source said: "We did have officers in the States, but we are not saying where. They did not assist in the arrest. This is a delicate matter and we are keen to bring him back to Kent."

Joseph Vincent, an Assistant Special Agent in San Francisco, said: "We are looking at this case carefully to see how he managed to get into the US.

"It's possible some laws were

broken and he will be questioned about those. To our knowledge he is not wanted for any cases of violence in the US."

Mr Hanson said: "Most of the intelligence information about Rana came from the British police. We were watching the house and the Kent detectives would have been back in the office – we do not take visiting officers on operations like this.

"The British came up with the name Suchet Singh and they had tracked him through France and

Canada and then into the US.

"It appears he had set up home in San Jose and was living with others, but we are not releasing information on who they are.

Opportunity

"We were watching the house in an undercover operation and Rana was arrested when he stepped outside for a cigarette.

"He did not put up any resistance and was taken into custody at the Santa Clara County Jail."

Mr Hanson said if the extradi-

tion proceedings go well he could be back in Kent within a few weeks, but he does still have the opportunity to oppose extradition.

He said if that happened, it would take a lot longer for the issue to be decided.

Rana is still being held in custody and is unlikely to be released unless his current lawyer, who is a state-appointed public defender, makes a successful legal argument at his next hearing.

No date for that has yet been set.

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Former Kent player tells of frightening ordeal in Pakistan

Terror attack coach Paul ready for home

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FORMER Kent cricket coach Paul Farbrace will return home to see his family later this month after cheating death in Tuesday's terrorist attack in Pakistan.

The 41-year-old, who also played for the county as a wicketkeeper, was accompanying the Sri Lanka team to the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore when their bus was ambushed by an estimated 12 gunmen.

Six policemen and a driver were killed in the assault, but miraculously everyone on the bus survived.

Farbrace was among eight people injured and taken to a nearby hospital, where shrapnel – believed to be a piece of a grenade – was removed from his arm. He was fit enough to fly back to Colombo with the rest of the squad on Wednesday, when those injured in the attack were given more hospital treatment.

Mr Farbrace was expecting to be discharged this weekend and intends to return to his Harrietsham home next week for what is bound to be an emotional reunion with his family.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday from Colombo, he said: "Once I'm out of hospital I will think about the next step. Obviously I will come home to see my family and



PAUL FARBRACE: Wounded in the arm by shrapnel from a grenade in the attack

reassure them everything is OK."

The team's lucky escape appears to be largely down to the bravery and skill of their driver, who was able to negotiate the bus through the ambush, preventing what could have been a massacre.

The whole attack is a blur to Mr

Farbrace, who admitted he was struggling to grapple with how close he and the team came to disaster.

He said: "I've watched bits on the TV and read stories in newspapers and on the internet. I'm not sure how much it's sunk in, it's just a huge relief that I'm alive."

"When you look at it, it's almost surreal – like watching a film that you're not actually a part of."

Sri Lanka were only in Pakistan to play a Test series after India pulled out in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks in November.

Other countries, including Australia and South Africa, have cancelled or altered tours to the country in recent years due to security concerns, but Mr Farbrace said he had had no reservations about going to Pakistan beforehand.

He said: "We'd been there twice before recently and both times were looked after brilliantly."

"The hotels have been fantastic, the grounds and facilities have been very good. You have to trust the judgement of the people who are qualified to make those calls."

"We've been to Guyana and Bangladesh recently, there are risks everywhere you go. This is not something any of us thought would happen."

• **For more from Paul Farbrace in the wake of the attack, see the back page.**

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

A chilling forecast

A BBC TV weather forecast this week predicted temperatures in Kent would fall to -99C.

The embarrassing slip-up came as Daniel Corbett was presenting the weather on the BBC News 24 channel. As he spoke the map behind him showed temperatures in Kent on Wednesday to be -99C. In reality, thermometers in the county only reached 8C at best.

Although the mercury didn't quite plunge to the frozen depths predicted by the BBC's faulty map, Southeastern Trains did cancel some services from east Kent on Friday morning because of ice on the tracks.

New Channel ferry

THE launch of a new cross-Channel ferry service from Ramsgate to France has been confirmed.

Euroferries has announced the Ramsgate-Boulogne route will start from Tuesday, March 31. The Bonanza Express will be the first vessel in operation, in partnership with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. It will cross the Channel four times a day.

The boat is a 96-metre Incat, and will take cars, foot passengers and coaches, plus a limited number of freight vehicles and caravans.

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See KOS Media's new TV commercial for the Go Green – Read It Free On Screen campaign. Search 'go green'

Dockyard's unique gift to US President

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown presented a special gift from Kent to President Barack Obama during his trip to Washington DC this week, *writes Jenna Pudelek.*

Ship-keepers at Chatham Historic Dockyard used an off-cut of timber salvaged from anti-slavery ship HMS Gannet to make a unique pen holder, which now has pride of place on the Resolute Desk in the White House's Oval Office.

Mr Brown also handed over a first edition biography of Winston Churchill, which has been placed in the President's personal study adjoining the office.

In return, the Prime Minister is said to have received a box set of 25 classic Hollywood movies from Mr Obama, which included Star Wars, The Godfather, ET and The Wizard of Oz.

Mr Brown, who is the first European leader to meet with Mr Obama since his historic inauguration as the first black US president, had been discussing the economic crisis and gave a speech to Congress on Wednesday.

Representatives from the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust visited 10 Downing Street last week to hand over the pen holder to Mr Brown before his official trip.

Jonathan Shaw, the Labour MP for Chatham and Aylesford, said: "I am delighted the PM decided to ask the trust to provide the gift for the US President. The dockyard is famous throughout the world for its



SPECIAL BOND: Barack Obama and Gordon Brown in Washington this week

history and record of shipbuilding.

"This is really one of the key things that put Chatham on the map. People are proud of the dockyard and it is much loved. It is iconic, not only for us, but for the South East and the country as a whole."

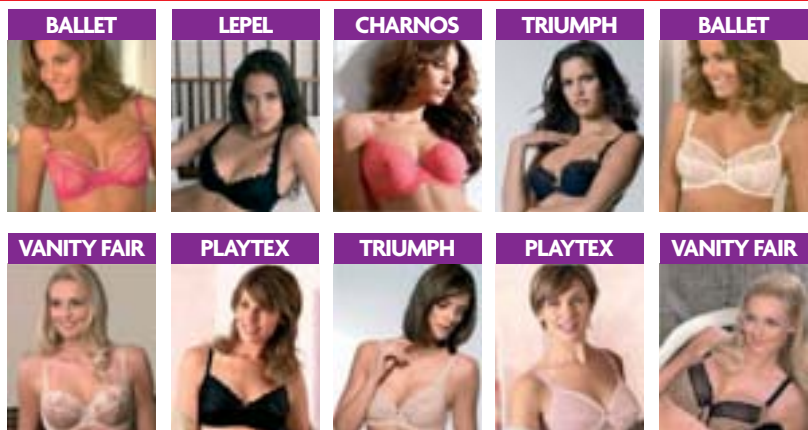
He said now President Obama would be aware of the dockyard and its history.

The Resolute Desk was made from timbers of the British ship HMS Resolute, which was also built at Chatham, in 1879.

It was presented by Queen Victoria to Rutherford B Hayes, the 19th US president.

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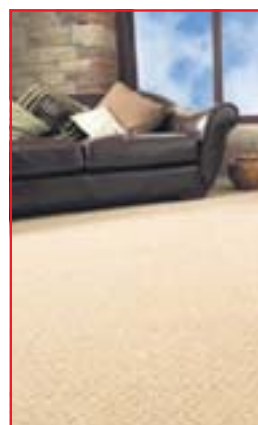
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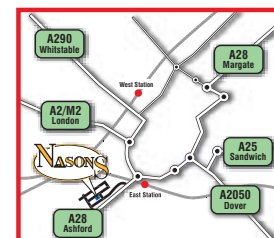
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Commuters' relief over planned rail fare 'cap'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Government intends to cap train fare increases after lobbying by a railways watchdog.

Pressure group Passenger Focus welcomed the news, which coupled with the economic crisis pushing down the price of regulated fares, should spell the end to inflation-busting ticket price hikes for commuters in Kent.

Kent spokesman Tunde Olatunji said: "We welcome this, although it has not been confirmed yet. It shows the Government is thinking hard about the recommendations we have made. It has allowed fares to be applied in a way that distracts from the headline figures."

Thousands of rail passengers who travel to London from Kent using Southeastern services are always hardest hit by fare increases, which have risen by an average of six per cent nationally this year.

Under the company's franchise agreement with the Department for Transport, it is allowed to increase its regulated ticket prices, such as season tickets, annually by the retail price index (RPI) for July, which was 5.3 per cent, plus three per cent.

Other train companies are only allowed to add one per cent to the RPI figure on regu-



FARE ENOUGH: Passenger Focus has welcomed news of Government action

lated fares. But on top of the RPI rule, passengers face higher increases because operators have the freedom to increase some fares by up to five per cent above the average increase.

Passenger Focus has been calling for restrictions on this headroom. Mr Olatunji said: "In Kent, eight per cent was the highest rate of increase but when you add on a possibility of an additional five per cent, which is happening, some fares went up by 13 per cent."

Rail minister Lord Adonis has also said fares will fall next January if, as analysts

have predicted, the RPI is negative this July.

The decision was welcome by Jonathan Shaw, minister for the South East and Labour MP for Chatham and Aylesford.

Speaking about the cap on fare increases more than the RPI rule, he said: "I welcome that the Government proposes to place restrictions on the five per cent flexibility."

"In a time of economic stringency, I do not think it acceptable for individual commuters to face significantly above-average fares increases."

"The Government's intention is that, in future, the cap should apply to individual regulated fares, not just to the average of each fares basket. The Government will talk to the train operators about the implications of making this change, but they are determined it should take effect from this year's fares."

If the cap goes ahead, then in theory if the July RPI is minus 2.1 per cent, as analysts have predicted, come January the county's commuters will face fare increases of only 1.1 per cent on all regulated tickets.

A rail company spokeswoman said: "Southeastern will work within whatever fare setting arrangements are agreed with the Department for Transport."



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Langton lad wins science accolade

A SCHOOLBOY from Canterbury has been named Britain's best young scientist.

Simon Langton Grammar pupil Peter Hatfield, 17, received the accolade at the Big Bang Fair in London. He impressed the judges with his team's design for a cosmic ray detector, built by adapting technology already being used in the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

Peter said: "I didn't expect to win so I was really pleased. I called my parents straight away and they thought it was fantastic."

The competition, devised by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, aims to raise the profile of science and engineering in the UK.

To see this clip search 'helicopter' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Enjoy a tour of Kent from the air courtesy of this helicopter ride. Search for 'helicopter'

Eurostar urged to promote restored Ashford service

EUROSTAR has been told it must team up with the county's tourism and business chiefs to ensure Ashford International's direct route to Brussels survives, **writes Ed Hill.**

The service was resurrected last month after being shelved in 2007. Eurostar shifted services to Ebbsfleet, angering many regular users in Ashford.

Now Passenger Focus says Eurostar must put its marketing muscle behind the Ashford service to ensure it is given the best opportunity to shine.

Spokesman Tunde Olatunji said: "The first phase was getting the service back. Now we want to monitor the efforts that go into making the service viable. When it was taken away we were told not enough people were using it."

"There are still concerns that tickets purchased do not show Ashford as the starting point for journeys and therefore the true number of Ashford International passengers, compared with the figures quoted by Eurostar, cannot easily be verified."

"We need a combination of things: raising the profile of Ashford station; ticket offers; working with Kent bodies that promote tourism and travel; and working with those in Ashford who have an interest in making use of a service on their doorstep."

"The onus is on Eurostar to get passengers using it – not the campaigners."

Eurostar's Richard Holligan said: "We have to match our marketing resources across all stations. Ashford, along with our stations, will be at the heart of our marketing. Our focus will be on the route."

Pension firm retained by KCC

THE services of a poorly-performing American firm responsible for managing about £200 million of the Kent Pension Fund have been retained.

New York-based AllianceBernstein recorded a 50 per cent loss in revenue during the final quarter of 2008, and was at risk of losing its contract with Kent County Council.

However, members of the superannuation fund committee decided on Friday to give the company a chance to turn things around.

Chairman Cllr James Scholes said: "They made a compelling case for how they can deliver considerable performance moving forward. We will monitor the position closely on a monthly basis."

13 years for killer Penfold

A THUG who killed a man by beating him over the head with a broom will spend at least the next 13 years behind bars.

Shane Penfold, 19, from Elvington, near Dover, was found guilty on Thursday of the murder of 23-year-old Marc Brown, from Deal.

Maidstone Crown Court heard how Penfold chased his victim from a party into a garden, where the attack took place, on August 15, last year. Mr Brown died later in hospital. Det Chief Insp Mick Atkinson described the murder as "brutal".

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Designer Katherine Hamnett backs campaign against sexual discrimination



'Everything I have is because of my education'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A KENT-BORN fashion designer turned ethical activist is among the inspirational women backing a charity's call for an end to violence and discrimination against girls in the developing world.

Katherine Hamnett is featured today on Plan UK's website to highlight the Because I Am A Girl campaign and draw attention to the children and young women whose lives are blighted by poverty and inequality.

To mark today's International Women's Day, the children's charity has brought together several high-profile women, with Ms Hamnett being joined by Cherie Booth, Harriet Harman MP, singer Beverley Knight and Dr Miriam Stoppard, the women's and children's health specialist.

Asked why she chose the support the campaign, Ms Hamnett, who was born in Gravesend, told Kent on Sunday: "I suppose because I was really lucky. My parents put education above everything and that is vital. Girls need to be educated."

"Everything I have is thanks to education. All the things going wrong in the world are because of ignorance."

In the 1980s, the designer's trademark

slogan T-shirts were worn by pop icons such as Frankie Goes To Hollywood and Wham! Her work continues to be popular and influences other designers today, notably Henry Holland.

Famously, in 1984 she walked into Number 10 to meet the then prime minister Margaret Thatcher wearing one of her T-shirts emblazoned with '58% don't want Pershing [missiles]'.

She slipped out of the limelight in the 1990s to work on making fashion more ethical and environmentally sustainable.

Ms Hamnett's work has since returned to the catwalk and she has produced a range of organic cotton clothing for Tesco, but at the moment is concentrating on environmental and social justice campaigning.

Hence her work with Plan, which in its 2008 report looked at the treatment of girls in conflict zones, revealing heartbreaking stories of rape, sexual slavery and child soldiers.

The charity is urging political leaders to step up global efforts to halt violence and discrimination against girls.

Ms Hamnett said the main obstacle to equality was education, citing the Taliban in Afghanistan preventing girls from going to school, and the early marriages of girls at 14 in rural India.

Discrimination is still widespread and Plan claims that 100 million females have gone 'missing' in the developing world – suspected



IRON LADY: With Maggie at No 10

of being killed before or after giving birth.

"We've gone from a fashion organisation into a campaigning organisation," Ms Hamnett, 62, said.

"The way to change the world is to use the democratic system. I went to the Six Billion Ways conference [last Saturday], which covered everything from environmental and social justice, to Gaza and the war in Iraq."

"Basically it is about putting pressure on our MPs, they represent us – democracy is government for the people by the people."

"If you think about the amount of bull we went through for us to have democracy – women only got the vote 90 years ago – we've got to use it to get the world we want."

Asked who inspired her, she said: "My grandmother was one of the most inspiring people to me because she was the first woman to get a science degree. She was a biologist and was awarded her doctorate in 1908. We were always brought up to feel equal but different."

She spoke about memories of her childhood in Kent, she said: "My grandmother lived in Greenhithe and I was addicted to the smell of the beach. The rotting Thames beach covered in green slime, it's something that should be hated, but I loved it."

Ms Hamnett said she was planning a return to the fashion world but is concentrating on finding the right partners to make the clothes entirely ethical and organic.

"We are looking for partners, people who really understand the relevance of what we are trying to do," she added.

For more information about Because I Am A Girl, visit www.becauseiamagirl.org.

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Polyclinics undermined after doctor's diagnosis

PLANNED 'super-surgeries' across the country have come under fire from a Kent GP whose research has found no evidence they are needed, **writes Jenna Pudelek.**

The Department of Health has asked medical chiefs to create a network of so-called 'polyclinics', which will offer a wider range of services than GP surgeries – such as physiotherapy and diagnostic tests.

The move is based on proposals by health minister Lord Darzi following his review of the NHS.

Dr Hendrik Beerstecher, who runs a practice in Sittingbourne, and his research partner Claire Morgan carried out a study of 384 UK practices and found there was no difference in the range of services offered by average-sized surgeries compared with polyclinics.

"The reason they wanted to do it is to save money. The idea is that hospitals cost more than primary care and by moving services into primary care it will automatically become cheaper," said Dr Beerstecher.

"We found making a practice bigger does not necessarily mean they provide more services. Yes, the smallest practices provide fewer services.

But for average-size practices the amount does not seem to be increasing, and we could find no evidence to support creating very big practices."

Every primary care trust (PCT) in the country has been asked to open at least one polyclinic and in Kent health bosses have called them 'GP-led health centres'.

Dr Beerstecher said that they created "unfair competition" in the areas they served. He said GPs in London, where there are plans for 150 polyclinics, were most concerned. "It is a form of unfair competition," he said. "The clinics are allowed to see my patients and poach them if they register, but I am not allowed to steal patients from other surgeries." Dr Beerstecher said patients could be tempted to register with the new surgeries because of the increased services they will offer.

Ultrasound

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is planning GP-led health centres in Swale and Thanet, with the first opening on the Isle of Sheppey on March 23. It will be able to care for up to 6,000 patients. As well as extra GP services such as diabetes care and minor surgery, patients will also be able to access seven key specialities including physiotherapy, ultrasound, MRI and CT scanning, ophthalmology and dermatology and skin surgery.

"The centre will be much more accessible than any other surgery in Swale – open 8am-8pm every day of the year – with both pre-booked and walk-in sessions available to both registered and unregistered patients," a spokesman for the PCT said.

"Rather than replacing surgeries, the centre will provide additional capacity, a wider range of services, and increased access. This is important to many people with family or work commitments."

He said the centre would mean patients would not have to travel to hospitals to access specialist services.

Dr Beerstecher's research was published in this month's British Journal of General Practice.

The British Medical Association spokesman for Kent, Dr Paul Hobday, said: "The BMA has opposed polyclinics and our concerns are very similar. Polyclinics will lead to the demise of traditional general practice because the Government does not think it is important."

NHS Medway is opening a GP-led health centre in Gillingham on March 30, which is open from 8am-8pm, seven days a week, for registered and non-registered patients. In west Kent, a health centre staffed by three GPs in Dartford is planned.

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Main Sands will host motocross

THE Big Sky Beach Cross event roars into Margate this weekend.

The Main Sands will host high-octane thrills and spills as motocross riders battle it out for championship points.

The action kick-starts at 10am. Racing continues into the afternoon as quad bikes and motorcycles swarm around the beach course at high speed. See www.margatebeachcross.com for details.

Port wind farm wins approval

PLANS for a wind farm in the Port of Sheerness have been approved.

Swale council backed a planning application by Manchester-based Peel Wind Power for four 125-metre-high turbines.

They will generate enough electricity to power about 5,500 homes. The 10MW wind farm has the potential to meet 13 per cent of the wind energy target for Kent. The turbines were opposed by conservation groups and Queenborough Town Council.



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BATTLEGROUND: Striking miners clash with police on the picket line at Tilmanstone Colliery

Northern past stoked Kent's coal miners to fight back at Iron Lady

IT WAS 25 years ago this week that an announcement by then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sparked the most bitter industrial dispute in UK history.

Her decision to close uneconomic coal pits throughout the country signalled the beginning of the end for a traditional industry, but the tens of thousands of miners who eventually lost their jobs refused to go down without a fight.

And fight they did, as walk-outs, flying pickets and violence between protesters and the police became all-too familiar sights at locations across the country.

This lasted for a bitter year and ended in defeat for the miners who eventually went back to work.

Kent may not be widely regarded as a coal mining hotbed, but workers at its four pits in Snowdown, Tilmanstone, Chislet and Betteshanger were some of the most loyal to the National Union of Mineworkers at that time.

Mark Foster, assistant curator at Dover Museum where a coalfield heritage exhibition once stood, explained why.

Close-knit

He said: "The 1926 General Strike was led by coal miners in the north and the Midlands and it was very bitter. They didn't get back for some time and all the ring-leaders were sacked and couldn't get any work.

"They all came down to Kent and used assumed names because they were desperate and there were plenty of jobs available.

"The companies had to build small towns like Aylesham and Mill Hill for them to live in, so the mining communities became very close-knit.

"Kent's coal miners were the most militant. They were the first ones out there striking and the last ones back."

Following the discovery of coal at Shakespeare Cliff, Dover, in 1896, there were more than 45 test bores sunk.

Nine pits were established, but only four produced any coal. Part of the problem was that it was buried very deep and often found under vast pockets of water stored in the chalk and greensand beds.

But despite the difficulties in obtaining it, Kent coal was seen as being of the highest quality and many miners felt the county's pits still had a future.

Frank Redman was secretary for the Betteshanger branch of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (Nacods).

He said: "Kent coal was one of the finest coals available. It contained less than one per cent sulphur, and in today's climate crisis it would have been invaluable.

"It was purely a vindictive move on

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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(Thatcher's) part to close the mines. It was a pleasure to work with some of those people, they were the salt of the earth and the way they were treated was unforgivable."

Nacods members were front-line supervisors at coal pits throughout the country, and although most wanted to join the strikes organised by NUM led Arthur Scargill, a top-level decision was made to not do so.

Mr Redman said: "My own personal view was that it was a fight for jobs and we should have supported the NUM in that.

"Within our union there were people who had relatives in the NUM, so it was a difficult period for people.

"It's fair to say Nacods had a very good relationship with its brother union, but it's only natural that some people held ill feelings towards us for not taking part."

Terry Harrison, secretary of the Betteshanger branch of the NUM, did take part in the strikes and witnessed first hand the violence and animosity that existed between miners and the police.

He also saw some of the more controversial tactics to stop the protests happening, such as officers threatening to arrest people at Dartford tunnel if they thought they were travelling north.

Mr Harrison said: "It's an experience you go through. Do I regret it? No. Do I regret some of the divisions between people that have come out of it? Yes.

"The closure of the mines hit a lot of people hard and I'm aware of suicides and break-ups of marriage that were probably a direct result.

"But I'm not one to sit back and be bitter. There are always opportunities for people to move on with their lives and build on what is left behind."

Betteshanger (1924-1988) was the last pit to open in Kent and also the last to close, just a year short of the centenary of coal being discovered in the county.

Mr Harrison added: "It's been 25 years since the strikes and the communities are changing, although more dramatically in some places than others.

"There has to be a steady influx of non-mining people by nature, but the change is often slower in isolated areas like Aylesham."

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A LEADING figure in the Church of England and a close friend of the Archbishop of Canterbury is to retire after 40 years as a minister.

Dr Stephen Venner, the Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury, is stepping down after 10 years as leader of the diocese.

The Bishop said he had witnessed enormous changes during his time as a bishop and said since the new Archbishop of Canterbury's arrival in 2003 there had been "a real spirit of hope and confidence around the place".

Dr Venner will be 65 in the summer and said he felt it was the right time to go while he still has the "energy" to pursue other activities in the Church and in education.

The departure of Dr Venner, who is also Bishop of the Falkland Islands, comes at a time when the Anglican Church is on the brink of schism over the issues of homosexuality and the ordination of women as bishops.

To outsiders the split appears to be between traditionalists and liberal members, but the Bishop said: "I would not give myself a label. But what I would say, which is very important, is that one of the gifts of Canterbury and privileges of working here is that Canterbury with its Archbishop are real forces for unity in the Anglican Communion."

He said when bishops from different parts of the Anglican Communion came together in Canterbury they relaxed and prayed together as friends because of their location.

"The Lambeth Conference is a great example, being here the way people disagreed and agreed and built friendships and to decide that splitting up is not an option," he said.

Homosexuality

However, many believe that recent developments, will spell the end of the Church as we know it.

Dr Venner said: "I think there will be fractures, undoubtedly. There will be groups who decide they cannot work and live together closely, but what I think most people would say is if we cannot be very close friends let's remain friends of some sort. I hope there will not be the sort of fracture where people go off in an angry way."

At last summer's Lambeth Conference, Dr Venner wept during a debate about women bishops.

He said: "I've spoken very publicly in the General Synod to say I personally would want to see women

A decade as Bishop ending for Dr Venner

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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ordained, but I believe we have got to find a way of doing it while holding on to those who believe this is not the right way forward."

In February this year the General Synod, the Church's national assembly, agreed to send a draft law allowing women to be ordained as bishops for amendments.

The first female bishop will not be ordained until 2014 at the earliest and the final form of the legislation could still be rejected.

On the subject of homosexuality in the Church, Mr Venner spoke in more general terms.

He said: "If you are a bishop where being a homosexual is illegal you might well have different views than in a country where it is a welcomed and accepted by groups in society."

"It is a debate that needs to go on and I do not think we are going to come to one conclusion that fits every section [of the Church]."

Finally, after the recent celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, KoS asked Dr Venner his views on the great scientist who lived and worked in Downe, near Orpington.

"Evolution fits in very neatly with

our faith," he said. The Bishop said the sequence of creation told in the first chapter of the book of Genesis was similar to Darwin's evolutionary 'tree of life'.

He said: "Darwin's views are not accepted by anybody today, they have been revised by experience and further knowledge."

"Things that scientists believed very fervently have now been superseded by further knowledge. If science is searching for the truth then I do not think the Church has anything to fear because God is truth."

Valued

Dr Rowan Williams paid tribute to his friend with whom he is said to have a 'special relationship'. The Archbishop said he would be taking the unusual step of appointing a new Bishop of Dover before finding a new Bishop of Maidstone, where there will also soon be a vacancy.

"All through my time as Archbishop, I have known that the work of the diocese is being guided with commitment, prayer and love by a colleague and friend whom I have deeply valued."

Dr Venner will retire in November and will move to Rochester with his wife Judy, a senior early years adviser for Kent County Council, who intends to continue her work.



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Fewer let downs across the county than last year as soon-to-be secondary



Pupils get the pick of secondary places

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUNGSTERS throughout Kent at last received the news they had been waiting for when they were told if they had been accepted to their secondary schools of choice.

Letters telling them where they were likely to be educated for at least the next five years dropped onto doormats on Tuesday morning, while those who filled in online applications were emailed the previous afternoon.

In Medway, 88.98 per cent of 3,181 children were accepted by their first-choice school while the figure for the rest of Kent was 78.5 per cent of 16,277 who applied.

The numbers were up on last year by 2.5 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively.

The UK's admissions process was criticised this week for being difficult for parents to understand, but education chiefs at Kent County Council feel their decision to move the Kent Test forward from January to September helped improve the situation.

Cabinet member for education operations Cllr Mark Dance said: "The change to equal preferences last year made life simpler for parents and now, with the added benefit of parents having assessment information before they choose their schools, they are in a position to make informed decisions about their school preferences."

"This year's changes have made real improvements for Kent parents, ensuring a fair and open process. The continued uptake in online applications is a distinct success

and now eases the process for more than one-in-three parents.

"The offer letters clearly set out the next stage in the admissions process and I wish all the year six students the best of luck for the future and hope they enjoy secondary school life."

Pupils wishing to attend KCC secondary schools from September were asked to rank their top four choices, while those who wanted to study in Medway were allowed to give six.

In Kent, 95.5 per cent of pupils were offered a place at one of their top four schools compared to 95 per cent last year.

But there was disappointment for 773 youngsters – or 4.5 per cent of the total – who were told they had not been accepted by any of their choices and were instead allocated a school. The figure last year was 840.

Cllr Dance said: "It is pleasing that 95 per cent of parents have been offered a school of their choice."

"Where the allocation does not make sense through distance or bad transport links, we have written personally to those families."

"It is a legal requirement on the local authority to make an offer in case no alternative place can be found."

In addition to the 16,277 pupils offered schools, a further 521 non-Kent residents were

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pupils receive news they have been accepted by the school of their choice



Grammars pull in home hunters

THE quality of Kent's grammar schools is being used to tempt wealthy families into moving to the county.

According to research by Email4Property.co.uk, the recession is forcing parents to look for alternatives to private education and grammar schools are seen as the next best thing.

Head of marketing Steven Lees said: "The quality of local schools has always been high on the agenda for families

when choosing to move home.

"However, in these times of restricted finance the specific requirements for children's schooling have shifted for many.

"As well as leading to a huge amount of competition for limited school places, this shifting dynamic has also seen a renewed competitiveness in many local property markets as families clamour to secure a home within easy reach of the country's top grammar schools."

Last week, Holmewood House prep school, which educates up to the age of 13 and is a common feeder to Tonbridge and Sevenoaks senior schools, announced it was in the middle of redundancy talks.

Headteacher Andrew Corbett cited the recession, local competition and the decision of more parents to send their children to grammars at age 11.

Bromley in particular has experienced a surge in interest

from potential buyers, which could be due to the excellent reputation of schools such as St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar.

The Financial Times ranked that school as seventh in a top 10 list of the England's best, based on performances in core A-level subjects.

The average price of a home there is also a competitive £274,004 compared to £156,753 nationally.

also accepted. There were 1,554 applications.

Parents now have until March 26 to decide whether to accept or decline their offers.

In Medway, every child who applies is assured of being accepted to one of the schools from his or her top six. Of the 3,181 who did, 173 lived outside of the towns.

In addition to the 88.98 per cent who were offered places at their top choices, 6.63 per cent were accepted by their second choices and 1.66 per cent at their third.

Director of children's services Rose Collinson said: "In Medway we have a diverse school system and are keen to meet parents' preferences for the kind of school which provides the education which best fits the needs,

interests and aspirations of their child.

"Medway Council reviews its admission process every year. In recent years we have given parents the option of selecting up to six schools for their child in order of preference. Parents are now also told the results of their child's Medway Test results before choosing a school.

"This year the proportion of applicants allocated their first school preference is 89 per cent. This represents an increase compared with last year, at the same point in the admissions process.

"Ninety-seven per cent of applicants have been allocated one of their top three preferences."

Places left unfilled

NEARLY 100 places at Medway grammar schools will go spare in the forthcoming academic year, it has been revealed.

Education experts have blamed the Government's complex 11-plus review and appeal system for children being deprived of a place at popular schools.

Fort Pitt Grammar School, Chatham Grammar School for Boys and Chatham Grammar School for Girls all have extra spaces available for their September intake.

According to latest figures released by Medway council the three schools have a total of 95 empty seats between them.

Chatham Grammar School for Boys has a surplus of 37 places for the September, 2009, new school year, while Chatham Grammar School for Girls and Fort Pitt Grammar School, Rochester, have 32 and 26 spare places respectively.

Kent independent education advice expert Peter Read said the places would not be taken up by 'borderline' students who had hoped to gain entry to a grammar school through the appeal process.

Mr Read blamed this on Medway education chiefs' refusal to allow applications for places at any school after March 31 – as is the case in the rest of Kent – and the Government's complex appeal and review system.

He said: "Parents are totally bemused by the complexities of the system and the lack of flexibility that has led to the situation where Medway grammar schools have so many vacancies between them.

"This problem is exacerbated by the large number of children of grammar school ability living in north and west Kent with no grammar place to go to, who could easily access these places.

"The review and appeals system leads to huge amounts of stress and seems to present parents with deliberate obstacles. It seems perverse seats at popular schools are empty."

Children who fall short of the 11-plus pass mark can submit examples of their work to a panel of headteachers to review their case.

This panel cannot consider special circumstances – such as the death of a relative, or illness.

Parents can appeal against the panel's decision, but must demonstrate that their findings were unfair.

A Medway council spokesman defended the system, saying: "In Medway we have a diverse school system and we are keen that parents should express a preference for the kind of school which provides the education which best fits the needs, interests and aspirations of their child.

"The Medway Test is not, therefore, about sorting out the passes from the failures – it is about determining which children are best suited to a selective education.

"To increase the proportion and lower the pass rate would undermine the whole point of having a selection criteria for our grammar schools by lowering entry standards and making the intake more comprehensive."

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Big rush to claim tickets for day out

TOURIST attractions throughout Kent will receive a welcome boost when the county's third annual Big Day Out takes place later this month.

On Tuesday 17,000 free tickets were made available for a range of venues across the county, with more than 10,000 snapped up within hours. The event on Saturday, March 28, is co-ordinated by the Visit Kent team at Kent County Council.

Head of tourism Fran Warrington said she hoped the Big Day Out would encourage people to enjoy the county's attractions at other times of the year as well.

She said: "Three years ago we sat down with people from the tourist industry and had a brainstorming session to see how we could get people more involved with the attractions on their doorstep. We wanted people to start feeling proud about their county again."

On Tuesday more than 160 people downloaded their free pair of tickets within the first minute of them being made available and 847 had gone within the first five.

The figure rose to more than 6,795 in the first hour and 10,000 in the first five.

Mrs Warrington said there were plenty of tickets still available: "Some of the bigger attractions like Hever Castle and Chartwell went quickly but we've still got a few thousand tickets left."

"The Big Day Out was extremely popular last year and it seems people were just waiting for the moment the tickets were made available. We're very pleased with the speed at which they have been snapped up."

For tickets see www.kentbigdayout.co.uk.



DIRECTION: Tim Travers Hawkins, left, will have help from the Young Knives to produce the soundtrack to his film on immigration

Film to focus on shifting attitudes

A YOUNG filmmaker has won a national competition to make a short feature with the help of top directors.

Tim Travers Hawkins, of Canterbury, was among five winners selected by youth initiative Ctrl.Alt.Shift for his idea centred on the inmates at the immigration detention centre at Dover under the category War + Peace.

"I think really it is a hugely symbolic place,"

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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he said. "It used to be a military base and obviously the White Cliffs became a symbol of Britain in World War Two – of fighting against tyranny and symbolic of freedom."

"So, it is quite pertinent that there should now be a prison on the White Cliffs holding people seeking that freedom."

The 24-year-old said that after studying film at the University of Buenos Aires, his features have a "high level of participation with the people involved".

"In my work as a filmmaker I often stress what you do not always see in the mass media. I look for ways that allow people to express their own life rather than me choosing for them," he said.

Ctrl.Alt.Shift is part of the international charity Christian Aid, which works in some of the world's poorest communities in 50 different countries.

The charity said it works where the needs are greatest, regardless of religion. Other categories in the youth competition include the issues that Ctrl.Alt.Shift said it aims to highlight through the project – Aids + Stigma, and Gender + Power.

Award-winning actor, director and screenwriter Noel Clarke, who won Bafta's 'rising star' award this year, starred as Mickey Smith in Doctor Who, and found critical acclaim with his hard-hitting films Kidulthood and Adulthood, is among the mentors on the project.

Mr Hawkins said he was looking forward

to turning his vision for his film Western Heights into a reality with the help of the collective Shynola, who met while studying at the Kent Institute of Art and Design in Maidstone.

Specialising in creating animated music videos, the collective has worked with artists including Radiohead, Queens of the Stone Age, Blur and UNCLE.

His idea is based on finding three detainees at Dover to compose a three-minute film that will be turned into an animated documentary.

He said: "I think the idea is not just to see asylum seekers as victims but to understand that a lot are talented and have a powerful and strong story to tell."

Opportunity

"I want to find people who see it as an opportunity, it won't change their situation, but people's attitudes to the plight of people locked away there. It is important to make documentaries about these issues."

Mr Hawkins, who studied Spanish and politics at Bristol University before heading to the Argentine capital to pursue film, said he was looking for artists with original and compelling ideas to create the animation.

He added the feature had been designed to work around the small budget of £4,000 that the winners have to work with.

The filmmakers will produce soundtracks for their features with the help of the Mercury Prize nominated Young Knives as well as Shy Child, Metronomy, Jesca Hoop and The Thirst.

The artists will also be playing at the premiere in London this May, which will see the thought-provoking shorts unveiled and offer a platform for major global issues.

For more details see www.ctrlaltshift.co.uk.


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Man's death live on CCTV

But inquest rules death by misadventure

By **ED HILL**

ed.hill@kosmedia.co.uk

CCTV operators watched a homeless man die in toilets in Ashford but did nothing to summon help or medical aid, an inquest heard this week.

Eric 'The Viking' Hughes was found dead outside the public loos in New Rents in November, 2007. He was spotted by police and concerned shopkeepers in the hours leading up to his death and CCTV crews were advised to monitor his condition.

But the council-run operators did not call for an ambulance even after a local businessman advised he did not think Mr Hughes would be able to survive a night in the cold. He was told, instead, simply to make him a cup of tea.

Mr Hughes, a well-known figure in the town, had been sleeping rough for some time. The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure after the three-day hearing. His body was found of November 9, 2007.

Coroner Rachel Redman said the inquest was held to establish the facts around Mr Hughes' death because it had implications for wider public safety.

Mr Hughes, 52, who had a long-standing alcohol problem, was first seen by police the day before his death at around 3.30pm. After they checked his condition and were satisfied he was not injured they left the scene, asking CCTV operators to keep an eye on Mr Hughes.

He remained in the area right up until his body was discovered the next morning in the shelter adjoining the toilets.

During this time he was monitored by CCTV

operators in Ashford council's control room.

The night leading up to his death, Mr Hughes was seen by Andrew Hollinson, at the time the owner of the Underside Bar opposite the toilets. He made radio contact on the Town Net Radio Service with CCTV control to warn them about his condition.

The inquest was played a recording of Mr Hollinson's conversation with the CCTV operators. In it he said he did not think Mr Hughes would be able to survive in the cold until the next morning and might need an ambulance.

Criteria

He was told by the control centre Mr Hughes did not fit the emergency homeless criteria that would result in a council officer being sent out to check on him, but they suggested he make him a cup of tea to help him get warm.

The court then watched CCTV footage of Mr Hughes being given tea by Mr Hollinson. The footage continued up until Mr Hughes' last movement was seen at 5.50am.

Dr David Rouse, the pathologist who carried out an autopsy on Mr Hughes' body, said the most likely cause of death was hypothermia. He also said complications with alcohol had contributed to the death.

The council's CCTV operators said they knew many of the town's homeless people well and in the past had provided cups of tea and blankets for them until they had been told to stop by management.

Police began an investigation into the circumstances around Mr Hughes' death at the time, but no charges were made.

At the time Ashford's control room did not

have a direct radio link with the police communications monitoring centre in Maidstone.

Gareth Recht, a CCTV operator on duty at the time, said he had been verbally advised of Mr Hughes' situation when he took over his shift and had continued to monitor him.

He had met Mr Hughes in the town two days before his death and had given him some money to buy chocolate and some clothes.

Had a member of the public made a 999 call to alert authorities of Mr Hughes's condition then, legally, an ambulance crew would have had to attend to him. A passer-by finally called for an ambulance the next morning, by which time he had already died. Medics confirmed his death at 7.48am.

Mr Hughes' wife, Virginia, from Beaver Court in Ashford, was in court to hear the outcome. The couple had separated years before his death.

After the hearing an Ashford council spokesman said: "The council fully supports

the actions of its staff, who like the police and other emergency services, provide 24-hour responses, often under extremely demanding circumstances. We are satisfied the monitoring centre staff on duty the night Mr Hughes died did all they reasonably could, as was heard during the inquest.

"The CCTV monitoring systems and procedures have been operated correctly under the centre's procedure manuals and Home Office and Security Industry Agency (SIA) guidelines and data protection requirements.

"The council is however constantly seeking to improve the services the centre can provide by updating the technology used and reviewing its systems and will be looking closely at the findings of the inquest to see if there are any lessons to be learned."

The spokesman said Mr Hughes had previously rejected three offers of accommodation from Ashford and Kent County Councils and had also rejected help to tackle his alcoholism.

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FOLKESTONE - CALAIS

THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

Sierra Leone village wants to twin with the county

Efforts doubled to link with African namesake

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE CAMPAIGN to twin Kent with a small fishing village of the same name in Sierra Leone is gathering momentum.

People from Sierra Leone living in the county have formed a self-help group called Kent Descendants Association (KeDA) to lead the ambitious bid to form links between the very different communities.

Towns across the county are twinned with others abroad, such as Ramsgate and Chimay in Belgium, and Canterbury with Rheims in France, which were mainly set-up after World War Two to bring Europeans closer together.

But campaign organisers believe the village of Kent, which is on a peninsula near the capital Freetown, and people in our county could benefit from a more unusual twinning as the west African country struggles to recover from a devastating 11-year civil war.

Earnshaw Palmer, secretary of KeDA, is originally from Freetown and has just returned from a week-long trip to Kent village. He said: "As a starting point, KeDA will bring together the Sierra Leonean community living in Kent. It is important for Sierra Leoneans to play a key role in working with other stakeholders to make this project happen.

"Although Kent village is small compared

to Kent county, twinning will provide a focus on the diversity that exists. There is also a rich blend of shared history and Kent village was a major staging post for the British in the slave trade.

"Furthermore, Sierra Leone, being the jewel of the Crown Colony between 1808 and 1961, serves to illustrate the strong ties that exist between Britain and Sierra Leone."

KOS Media readers already have ties to Kent village following a campaign in which they donated a tonne of books for school-children in June, 2007.

Mr Palmer told how he had visited the library where half of the books are kept and found they were well-used by the villagers, who have not forgotten the generosity of those who donated them.

Development

He said the aims of KeDA were to promote the aspirations of Kent village and the surrounding area as well as working to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals there.

The eight goals were agreed by world leaders and include gender equality, ending poverty, universal education, combating HIV/Aids and environmental sustainability by 2015.

Mr Palmer said another aim was to raise the profile of Kent village and generate interest that could lead to investment bringing sustainable economic benefits to residents.

Josie Renner, KeDA's chairman, added: "I believe Sierra Leoneans have a duty to pro-

mote their culture and act as ambassadors for their communities.

"The world is a global village and the best way we can integrate is to learn about each other's culture and share and transfer our knowledge. This will lead to better understanding in forging meaningful partnerships for our mutual benefit."

Membership of KeDA is open to anyone from Kent village, friends of Kent village in the UK and other Sierra Leoneans living in Kent.

For more information call Mr Palmer on 07868 759104.



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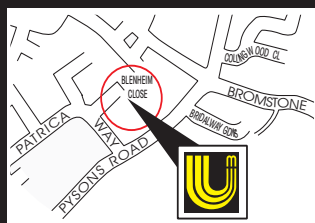
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French should 'lighten up' over refugee movie

MPs calm on film of man trying to get to Dover

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FEARS a controversial French film could tempt more refugees to attempt to enter Britain illegally have been dismissed on this side of the Channel.

The movie, *Welcome*, is about a likeable Kurdish immigrant who swims from Calais to Dover after failing on numerous occasions to sneak into the country via lorry or ferry.

Police and council chiefs across the Channel criticised the film last week because they felt it presented breaching border controls as a "noble quest" and a "worthwhile task". However, politicians in Kent said they did not think the movie would have any impact on the hundreds of refugees massed on the northern French coast hoping to enter Britain illegally.

Dover Labour MP Gwyn Prosser said: "There's nothing very wrong with trying to inject a little positive human interest into the vexed issue of asylum and immigration."

"As to the criticism of the French authorities – nobody expects this film to trigger an explosion of asylum-seeking cross-Channel swimmers heading for Dover, and I think they should lighten up a bit."

The film has received positive reviews in France, with some describing it as a "likeable story about a downtrodden migrant achieving his wishes against the odds".

It stars Firat Ayverdi as the refugee Bilal, while leading French actor Vincent Lindon plays the part of a man who aims to impress



CAUGHT: In the past five years 61,000 illegal immigration attempts were stopped in Calais

his girlfriend by helping his new acquaintance cross the Channel.

While the Calais authorities do not like the idea of audiences rooting for Bilal to achieve his dream, UK shadow immigration minister Damian Green said he did not think it was a worthwhile grievance.

The Ashford MP said: "The truth is that lots of people make films about controversial subjects, but to treat fiction as though it could be fact is often foolish."

"I don't think censoring a film like this is going to achieve anything. The way to stop refugees thinking it's likely they will be able to enter Britain illegally is to toughen up our borders. The facts will determine whether it's an attractive option."

A spokesman for the UK Border Agency, which is run by the Home Office, said she was unable to comment on the film but pointed to statistics that show such illegal Channel-crossings are unlikely to succeed.

She said: "We have a proud tradition of granting protection to people who need it, but people should claim asylum in the first safe country they arrive in."

"Our border security starts overseas, before people even set foot on British soil. We work with the French to ensure people do not dodge our borders, and our juxtaposed controls mean we can stop people before they try to come to the UK illegally."

"We stopped more than 88,500 attempts to cross the Channel illegally in the last five years, about 61,000 of those were at Calais alone."

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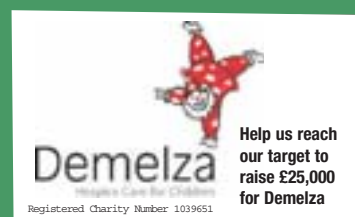


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STRONG LEADERSHIP: Cllr Paul Carter

Top marks for KCC

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT County Council has been named one of the UK's best-performing local authorities for the seventh year running.

Strong leadership, a falling crime rate throughout the county and improvements in education and adult social care contributed to KCC maintaining its four-star stamp of approval – the highest possible – from the Audit Commission.

For the sixth year running Medway Council received a three-star rating as part of the commission's final Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for 2007-08.

KCC is the only local authority in the country to have received top marks with an "improving strongly" direction of travel rating

every year since the report's inception in 2002.

Leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "It is my absolute priority that all taxpayers receive good value for money and good quality services.

"This report confirms we are providing excellent quality services to residents, from the education children receive in schools to the care we provide for our most vulnerable older residents. This journey of improvement has only been possible as a result of the hard work and dedication of KCC staff, elected members and our partners.

"Kent has received top marks consistently since the CPA started and I therefore believe

we are the best in the country, which is absolutely amazing. It's an excellent result."

The CPA will be replaced next month by the Comprehensive Area Assessment, which will involve more continuous reviews of councils' performances as opposed to snapshots taken at different points throughout the year.

Cllr Carter said: "I'm a little concerned the inspectors will place too much emphasis on comparing local authorities, because of course no two are the same in terms of size or the issues they face.

"For example, Kent has to contend with a real significant number of vulnerable individuals being placed in the county from elsewhere. However, I'm optimistic that Kent will continue to do well and hopefully we'll come through these new assessments as well as we have the CPAs."

Nationally 62 councils, including Bromley and Bexley, have achieved four-star status this year, compared to just 22 in 2002.

Surrey and Milton Keynes have the lowest scores in the country with just one star each, although Surrey's rating is subject to the result of a judicial review.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said he was delighted with the authority's three stars, which came with an "improving adequately" comment.

He added: "This latest result demonstrates we consistently deliver quality services to the people of Medway.

"It is also a fitting tribute to those staff who work hard to ensure we put our customers at the heart of everything we do."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

County a shining beacon in build-up to 2012

THE GOVERNMENT has recognised and praised the work of Kent in preparing for the London 2012 Games.

Kent County Council was awarded 'Beacon' status for using innovative and creative ways to maximise the economic and social benefits for the county after the Olympics are over.

Communities minister Sadiq Khan congratulated the authority at a special presentation in London at the QEII Centre in Westminster on Tuesday evening.

He said: "The Beacons are about showcasing the very best in service delivery. KCC is among the top performers in their

field, setting the standard for innovation, service excellence and improvement."

KCC's work ahead of the 2012 Games has focused on increasing participation in sport and physical activity, regenerating communities and increasing participation in cultural and volunteering activities, the authority said.

The biennial Kent School Games, which take place every two years and are thought to be the largest youth or school sport event in Europe, and securing match funding for new sports development officer posts in swimming, curling and archery, are among the council's achievements.

KCC also has more Olympic Pre-Games Training Camps within the official London 2012 guide than any other county, and it has achieved recognition for eight potential Paralympic Pre-Games Training Camps.

Cllr Mike Hill, cabinet member for communities, said: "We work hard to provide the best for local people and this recognition helps prove to residents and other organisations that we are determined to get the most from the arrival of the Olympics and Paralympics in 2012.

"I hope that Beacon status reassures everyone in the county that we will continue striving to benefit the county."

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By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE early life of a Kent-born Nobel Prize winner and other 'neglected' celebrities from the county are being rediscovered.

Michael Barton has launched a personal mission to learn more about his second-cousin Sir Derek Barton, who won the accolade for his work in organic chemistry.

And he explained how along the way he has uncovered other notable figures born in his home town of Gravesend.

"His family were artisans, they were carpenters and joiners," he said. "The cousins set up the timber business, WR Barton & Sons, and employed my father as the manager in Gillingham."

"They went from entrepreneurs to managers. That generation were not academics, so he would have been the first person to go to university and I was probably the second. His background is very interesting."

A wealth of information can be found about Sir Derek's work, which was in an area called 'conformational' analysis and changed our understanding of every organic molecule.

After his death from a heart attack in 1998,

Research into life of leading chemist Family's Nobel Prize genius rediscovered



SIR DEREK BARTON

the Royal Society said he was "the most distinguished British organic chemist of his generation". His early education and life in Kent, from his birth in 1918 until he won a scholarship to Imperial College in London, is not well documented, Mr Barton said.

"My daughter and I have started to explore our family history and discovered all kinds of things," he said. "It takes a lot of time but things have started to emerge. We have this famous cousin from Gravesend, which I do not think anybody realises."

"He had a major impact on the world of organic chemistry but the town has not recognised it and that is what struck us."

During his research, Mr Barton said he also

found that Thom Gunn, the major poet whose contemporaries included Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes, had been born in Gravesend in 1929.

He had extraordinary parents including a mother, who was a left-wing socialite and former journalist, and his father was a well-known editor of the tabloid Daily Sketch.

Their divorce and his adored mother's eventual suicide were recorded in one of his late poems, The Gas Poker.

Gunn lived and worked in the USA. Mr Barton said: "He does not seem to have any close association with Gravesend. However, further research may unearth details about the lives of his parents in the town."

He found that influential Telegraph journal-

ist and poet Sir Edwin Arnold was also born in Gravesend, in 1832, and went to King's School in Rochester before University College Oxford.

He enjoyed commercial success with his most famous poem, Light of Asia. Edwin Lester Lincoln Arnold, Sir Edwin's son, was born in Swanscombe in 1858 and also became a journalist before writing the seminal science fiction novel Gulliver of Mars.

Mr Barton said he hoped these noted figures, including Sir Derek, would be honoured on Discover Gravesend, a virtual museum about the area's heritage that has been set up by the local authority in place of the real museum, which was shut last year.

"Eventually I hope they will expand those famous people listed on the site and add Thom Gunn and Sir Derek into those archives," he said. His renowned relation, who won the Nobel Prize in 1969 and was knighted in 1972, was sent to Tonbridge School in 1932 until the sudden death of his father in 1935, when he left with no qualifications.

Mr Barton said: "He had no qualifications until he was 18, when he went to the technical college at Gillingham and gained qualifications that allowed him to gain a scholarship to Imperial College."

Mr Barton is trying to find out more about Sir Derek's time at college in Gillingham to discover how someone from a fairly modest background went on to add a third dimension to chemical analysis that proved central to research on chemicals and drugs for decades. Tonbridge School had recently named its library after Sir Derek, he added.

To see this clip search 'Barton' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Watch archive footage of the late Sir Derek Barton explaining his work in organic chemistry. Search 'Barton'

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Town shaken up by latest earthquake

By **KOS MEDIA REPORTING TEAM**

James Alexandre, Marijke Cox,
Steve Knight and Jenna Pudelek

FOLKESTONE was hit by an earth tremor this week – almost two years after the town was shaken by an earthquake.

It hit at about 2.30pm on Tuesday, causing some schools to be evacuated as a precaution, though in the end no-one was injured and no buildings damaged.

The British Geological Survey said the tremor was measured at 2.8 on the Richter scale and struck in the same location as the quake on Saturday, April 28, 2007, which registered 4.3 on the scale.

The spokesman said: "This was significantly smaller. It's a small event by UK and world standards and we would expect about 10 of these per year in the UK."

Mr B Fuller, a design-technology teacher at Harvey Grammar School in Cheriton Road, said: "It was like the tremor felt two years ago. When it happened, someone hit the fire alarm to evacuate the school."

"Some of the pupils asked me if it was physics – I said no, it sounds like we have to get out of the school."

According to pupils, books fell off the shelves and another teacher said she thought a forklift truck had hit the side of the building.

Pupils from Harvey Grammar School were sent home at about 2.45pm.

Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue Service received no reports of structural damage or injuries.

Epicentre

Damage caused by the 2007 earthquake cost millions of pounds to repair and left hundreds of people in emergency accommodation.

The foundations of the town shook as the quake, which measured 4.3 on the Richter scale, struck in what was the largest tremor to hit Britain since 2002.

Experts said its epicentre was 7.5 miles off the coast in the English Channel and tremors could be felt across Kent, even reaching as far as Calais and Brussels on the other side of the Channel.

The quake left thousands of homes in the Folkestone and Dover area without power.

The old clock on the former town hall, which is powered by electricity, stopped at 8.13am – the exact minute the quake hit.

Energy companies investigated 300 reports of gas leaks in the area.

Deal, Dover and Ashford were also affected by the quake, although most of the damage centred on Folkestone, where homes in five streets were evacuated because of structural damage including cracked walls and fallen chimneys.

Emergency beds were set up in Folkestone's Salvation Army centre, where volunteers comforted shaken residents after 1,500 homes were damaged.

Almost 1,000 children had to stay at home as fire crews investigated masonry cracks and ceiling damage at the Harvey Grammar School for Boys.

One woman in her 30s suffered a minor head injury and neck pain, but there were no major casualties.

Market trader Kevin Simpson was set-

ting up his stall as the quake hit and told how he heard a rumble and felt the ground shake.

"I was just setting up at the market and it was like time stood still for a moment," he said. "I felt the ground shake uncontrollably under my feet."

After the quake, experts at the British

Geological Survey warned that the quake could be leading up to an aftershock of a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale.

Seismologists said aftershocks could not be predicted but generally reached a level of one less on the Richter scale than the initial tremor.

To see this clip search for 'earthquake' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Folkestone residents describe what happen during the earth tremor. Search 'earthquake'

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Troops are bringing change

ONE of the major jobs of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment based just a few hundred yards from Taliban lines in Afghanistan's Helmand Province is winning the trust of local residents.

Afghans who have known nothing but strife for years are contacted by the Kent regiment's patrols in a 'hearts and minds'-style initiative aimed at showing the benefits a secure environment can bring to lives which have been largely unchanged for generations.

The troops go with interpreters and specialists who talk to young and old about what the future could hold for them if stability comes to their war-torn land.

With the constant knowledge that Taliban spotters – or 'dickers' – are watching their every move, the 30-strong patrols look to meet as many people as possible to talk about voter registration, British-backed radio stations, the benefits of law and order and education for the young – with girls a particular priority.

I joined one such 'reassurance' patrol from Forward Post Minden, a mud structure bought by the British Army from a local family.

Lead by Lt Giles Walsh with two Pashtu speaking interpreters and Arabic-speaking Corporal Mohamed Mohsin Shah, the patrol set off on foot – with machine gunners and

Reporter **NICK AMES** has been accompanying troops in Afghanistan from two Kent-based regiments – the 2nd Gurkha Rifles from Folkestone and Canterbury's Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment. They are based in Helmand Province at the town of Musa Qa'leh which was retaken from the Taliban last year, and at Patrol Base Minden, which is just 100 yards from the insurgents' frontline...



INTERACTING: Kent soldier helps relations by talking to local Afghans

infantrymen screening its progress. The first stop outside the base was where a village elder and children had gathered.

Afghan tea was immediately

offered and accepted – a watery brew with rather harsh leaves called chai.

Sergeant Simon Palmer of the RAF Regiment works with the locals and even encourages them to come

to the base with complaints.

Damage caused by the troops is the most common gripe – but even Sgt Palmer's patience is tested when 15 Afghans turn up demanding dollars for damages to the same private tree.

'Salaam Aleikum' (God be with you) is always his greeting. Sometimes the response is half-hearted, but this time my camera breaks the ice as children gather around to see pictures of themselves.

Sgt Palmer talks about voting and asks whether it is poppy (drugs) or wheat the farmers are growing.

A lively discussion ensues, but the troops are encouraged by a child carrying a United Nations notebook which he is using to learn to read and write.

The locals like the radio – especially the Pashtu music. Sgt Palmer suggests Bollywood should be played as well, but there's a shake of the head.

The patrol proceeds past home-stead compounds to a dirt road where a car comes speeding along.

Lt Walsh issues a crisp order "stop that vehicle". It turned out to be a taxi – "from where to where" ask the bemused troops.

Then along came a rare site – a woman on her own in full burqa, covered from head to foot.

Next along was a bearded mullah – or local preacher. He starts to talk to the troops resting by the side of the road.

Lt Walsh calls up Cpl Shah and Urdu speaking interpreter Noori Hameedullah to try and find out what he is saying.

His name is Mullah Achmed and he has a message which Noori translates as follows: "He's saying peace and goodwill to all men – whether they are from England, Afghan or America."

"All can come to God – otherwise they go to hell."

Back to camp and nothing else takes place. At the debriefing Sgt Palmer says: "Not a bad atmosphere out there," and morale leaps as the officers offer to cook spag bol with Parmesan.

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(Answerphone available out of office hours)

with kind words and deeds

THE headquarters of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles in Musa Qa'leh, Afghanistan is a far cry from the home comforts of Shorncliffe, near Folkestone.

The secure compound is ringed by barbed wire while the town and the delights of its bazaar are strictly off limits.

An outdoor and indoor gym, satellite TV and endless cigarettes are the main comforts.

But the situation is improving as the level of security gets better and residents increasingly go about their business without fear of attacks – such as the suicide bomber who killed the deputy police chief on December 1 last year.

And in order to act effectively in the area the troops have acquired some unusual local allies.

The district governor, Mullah Salaam, is a former high ranking Taliban commander who realised the futility of years of armed conflict and opted to put his considerable weight behind the British-backed reconstruction of the devastated town and its surroundings.

And the chief of the local Afghan National Police, known to all as Commander Koka, is a former Mujahadeen fighter who battled the invading Russian Red Army when it stormed across the border in 1979 – only to ignominiously retreat back to the Soviet Union a decade later. He is an imposing figure to the locals and famous for his dyed red henna hands, which make it look as if he has dipped them in blood. But actually they are a fashion statement.

"They make me look young," he said. "I'm getting on so I need help in that area."

Another valuable ally is the Afghan National Army, quartered next door to the Gurkhas themselves in a reinforced compound and under the command of Captain Mohammad Mobin. They conduct patrols and are an

Unusual support helping progress despite warnings from the Taliban



STANDING GUARD: Gurkha soldier out on patrol

increasingly effective fighting force.

All parties get together in an effort to bring a new form of justice to the locals in the area – rather than just cutting people's hands off.

Compensation claims for damage caused by troops are discussed in the district governor's office while the first stage of law enforcement takes place in what is called a 'shura' or meeting in the headquarters building.

The police in the town are a newly-formed organisation and some live in fear of death notices pinned to their doors in the dead of night or posted on the walls of mosques warning of threats to themselves and their families.

Despite this they turn up for work on a

regular basis and say they are proud to be part of efforts to stabilise the country, putting the lives of them and their families on the line for just £120 a month.

Cmdr Koka said: "We are all in this together. Afghans, whether they are soldiers or police, British, Gurkhas and anyone else who comes here to help. The Taliban issue threats to my men, but 99 per cent turn up."

"Our job is to collect evidence against people who are against us and put them in jail."

A criticism of the ANP from other members of the International Security Assistance Force (the multinational effort in the country) is that rather than collate the evidence and then

make an arrest they pull a suspect in and then try to justify their actions.

Frequently this means those who they say they know are insurgents are just let go as there is nothing which will result in a successful prosecution in the courts.

When evidence is gathered it goes before a group including Captain Toby Jackman of the Royal Gurkha Rifles and Foreign and Commonwealth Office representative James Donally as well as members of the Royal Military Police.

Capt Jackman said: "We are making progress – the very fact that there is a legal process in place shows that."

Helping keep supply line open

THE Gurkhas are playing a vital role in keeping supply lines open to remote bases across war-torn Afghanistan.

The Nepalese troops have been carrying out escort duties to convoys of heavy vehicles laden with materials necessary to keep the Forward Operational Bases (FOBS) manned by British and American forces.

Based at the British Army's Camp Bastion, they have been on the road for days at a time braving mines, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire from Taliban insurgents desperate to keep supplies from reaching the hard-pressed Allied troops.

The commander of the troops at Bastion, Colonel Andy Maynard, praised the soldiers as playing a vital part in the effort to combat the insurgency.

"I'm proud to have the Gurkhas working as

part of the combined effort we are seeing here," he said.

"They have a very high standard of selection and so the standards they bring here are exceptional."

"I take a paternal pride in their efforts and am always there to welcome them back and congratulate them on a job well done."

The Gurkhas are detailed to operate armoured vehicles which run alongside the convoys of up to 60 vehicles which can be slowed to just four miles an hour in deep sand.

With no roads across the desert they fan out and patrol far ahead, searching out likely ambush spots and areas where improvised explosive devices can be left by Taliban fighters.

These homemade bombs have caused death and injury to numerous troops and are one of the most serious threats Allied troops face.

SITING OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

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EDF Energy is one of the UK's largest energy companies and now incorporates British Energy.

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No final decision has been made on possible sites and it is important that members of the public and local communities know when and how to have their say.

The industry has until 31 March 2009 to nominate sites. In April the Government will publish the nominations and you will then have a month to provide additional information you think would be relevant to the assessment of the site. Later in the year the Government will run a full consultation on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement and list of potential sites.

Once the National Policy Statement is in place it will be up to developers to take forward any specific proposals to construct new nuclear power stations through the planning process. This process will involve further consultation.

To find out how to make your views heard on sites for new nuclear power stations and sign up for more information go to www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **78 & 79**

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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A GANG of international drug traffickers have been jailed for conspiracy to supply more than three tonnes of cannabis worth £10 million.

Businessman Keith Morez, 60, from Sevenoaks, and his unemployed fellow gang members Chris Brown, 55, from Greenhithe, and Gerard Dutton, 61, from Suffolk, were each given 10-year sentences at Kingston Crown Court.

The Metropolitan Police's Projects Team spent several months investigating the organised criminal network, which involved importing and supplying cannabis from southern Spain, as part of Operation Cromer.

Contacts

Det Insp Grant Johnson said: "This group was highly organised in the way they imported drugs."

"They used criminal contacts in the UK and Spain, going out of their way to disassociate themselves from the cargo by using false companies and deliberately deceiving legitimate haulage companies."

The Met's Projects Team passed intelligence onto Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officers who searched a Spanish

Drug traffickers jailed over three tonnes of cannabis worth £10m

registered lorry in April last year finding 1.5 tonnes of cannabis resin with a street value of around £4.2m.

The lorry was seized in Coquelles Port in Normandy, France, and had been travelling from Murcia in Spain, bound for the UK.

The drugs were found hidden in six pallets of floor tiles when the vehicle reached England.

In July last year, another Spanish-registered lorry was stopped by HMRC officers at the Port of Dover where they discovered 1.56 tonnes of the now class-B substance worth around £4m that had been hidden in pallets of 'dressed stone'.

Intelligence from the seizures led Guardia Civil Grupo de Drogas officers to search a warehouse in southern Spain where a further 690 kilos of cannabis valued at £1.93m was found.

DI Grant Johnson said: "Both of these lorry loads were significant seizures, headed for the streets of the

capital and these sentences are testament to how seriously both the police and judicial system, take this dangerous, newly reclassified, class-B drug."

Morez, of Billet Hill, ran a legitimate traffic management company but was found to be a senior member of the drug network, the Met said.

He acted as Brown's right-hand man, liaising with criminals in Spain and was responsible for transporting the drugs once they reached the UK.

Police arrested him in October last year while he was in his car on the A20 in Kent. He pleaded guilty on January 13 this year before sentencing at Kingston with the other men last Friday.

Detectives found that Brown was in total control of the importation side of the trafficking and actively involved in both lorry hauls of drugs seized.

He was seen meeting face-to-face with Spanish drug suppliers and kept in telephone contact with Morez and Dutton.

Brown was arrested in his car near the Dartford Bridge in July last year.

Dutton set up two fake companies so the gang could use them to employ legitimate haulage companies to import the loads of cannabis from Spain into the UK.

He was arrested in north Yorkshire in July last year. Police said the lorry drivers and haulage companies involved in the case were innocent victims and had been duped into believing they were carrying genuine loads of tiles and stone.

Bob Gaiger, a spokesman for HMRC, said: "This is a perfect example of the successful working partnership that exists between the Met Police and HMRC."

"We will continue to work together to prevent drugs from entering the UK and harming our communities. We will not only focus on those transporting these deadly drugs, but also those who mastermind and finance this illegal activity."



WELL ORGANISED: (top) Chris Brown and (above) 'right-hand man' Keith Morez

Jail term doesn't get in way of my integrity, says would-be politician

RAMSGATE businessman Tim Garbutt has brushed aside claims that a spell in prison last year could stop him standing for Parliament.

The restaurateur and advertising agency owner spent six weeks in prison after a dispute with another company over the registering of a name.

He had been sentenced to six months for contempt of court but walked away early after high-profile lawyer Giovanni Di Stefano

became involved in his case.

Mr Garbutt had chosen to be jailed rather than let Integrity Design Management – which had objected to him using the name Integrity for his company – force him to drop the word via the courts.

Since last month's announcement that Mr Garbutt will stand as an Independent Green for Thanet South in the next general election, some Isle politicians have questioned his eligi-

bility to contest the seat, having spent time at Her Majesty's pleasure.

However, Mr Garbutt said: "It was a civil offence, not criminal, and for an MP it's a 12-month criminal sentence or over – and that can be waived anyway."

After his release from prison, Mr Garbutt changed the name of his agency to Sincerity but is still hoping to have the conviction quashed completely.

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BUY LOCAL PRODUCE **ONLINE**

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CHRIS BRITCHER
CAMPAIGN EDITOR
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

Shoppers and suppliers embrace our push to support the best local produce

Massive response as our campaign kicks off

A HUGE response has greeted the first week of our Buy Local Produce campaign – with suppliers, shoppers and even star names flocking to get behind it.

It seems everyone is embracing the concept of buying locally produced food and drink – and by doing so supporting the grassroots economy.

What's more, it is dispelling the myth that buying top quality local food and drink is hard on the pocket. In fact, you'll be pleasantly surprised with the great value.

The Buy Local Produce campaign aims to support our rural communities by calling on our readers to demand locally sourced and produced goods; to shop from farmers' markets and farm shops; to insist restaurants put the best in local produce on their menus.

One-stop

And over the coming months, we will use this page and others in Kent on Sunday, our Saturday edition and our nine midweek YourLocal papers, to highlight the key issues impacting on our rural communities and showcase the rich bounty our land and waters produces.

To spearhead the campaign, we have launched the website www.foodforkent.co.uk where you can now buy all your family's food and drink needs in one place. What's more, the prices can even save you money in these tough recession-hit times.

We've teamed up with a host of Kent's best-known suppliers of vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, breads, wine and beer to



WE MEAN BUSINESS: Our Buy Local Produce campaign aims to support the county's rural producers and suppliers

already offer an unbeatable one-stop shop of the best of the Garden of England.

All of the products encapsulate what buying local means. By not being transported hundreds of miles from our farms to distribution centres around the UK and then back down to our supermarkets, the food from www.foodforkent.co.uk is packed with freshness. What's more, aside from flavours

that pack a mighty punch, and tastes which tantalise the tastebuds, the lack of processing and travelling means all the nutrients and goodness remain so it's better for you, too.

What's more, if there are less food miles, than the environment benefits, too. In fact it's been such a hit we've expanded our delivery areas this reach to allow even more of you to shop with us.

And if by doing all of that the Kent economy enjoys a boom then we're helping safeguard businesses, jobs and traditions on which our county's heritage is built on.

Famous faces too, have been in touch to offer their support and backing – but more of that in future editions.

For now our team behind the site – who have years of experience in sourcing, delivering and maintaining relationships with established, reputation-led local suppliers – are ensuring suppliers who have been in touch fulfil our tough criteria of: quality, health and safety; price, value, reliability of supply and, of course, ensuring that the produce comes from Kent.

So why not try the site for yourself today? Filling up your online shopping basket could not be easier.

Just browse the wide variety of products available and with a click of the mouse you can start adding them to your order. Log-on today at www.foodforkent.co.uk.

The Buy Local Produce campaign is supported by Produced in Kent, the non-profit organisation backed by Kent County Council and Hadlow College.

Award nominations to whet the appetite

THE hunt is on for nominations in the Great Taste Awards 2009 – a contest seeking the best food and drink in the UK.

The awards recognise smaller producers, who lack big promotional budgets, to gain wider distribution and increase sales. Winners get to carry a special logo on their products as well as benefit from a month-long promotion in food halls, delis and farm shops.

Last year The Kent and Sussex Tea and Coffee Company flew the flag for the county, scooping a prestigious 3-Star Gold Award.

Last year, high-profile foodies such as Mark Hix and Alex James helped judge the competition, often described as the 'Oscars' of the food world.

To enter, log-on to the Guild of Fine Food's website at www.finefoodworld.co.uk. Closing date is March 31.

First landing for food from Thanet Earth

THE first fruits of the mighty Thanet Earth development made it onto the shelves this week.

The 91 hectare site in Monkton, which bills itself as 'the UK's largest and most hi-tech greenhouse complex' is designed to be a huge producer of salad crops.

It hopes its tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers will help cut down on the reliance of imported salad ingredients while creating employment opportunities locally and all leaving a low-level carbon footprint.

Now the first cucumbers have been harvested and on Monday were hand-delivered to the Tesco supermarket in Broadstairs.

Around 700 people are employed at the sprawling complex which cost £80 million to build.

New farmers' market sets out its stalls

ANOTHER village farmers' market has been set up with hopes it will prove a big hit.

Challock, between Ashford, Canterbury and Faversham, is to host its own market twice a month to showcase a range of local produce.

The first took place on Friday and showcased more than 20 stallholders. On offer are meats, bakery goods, eggs, sweets and pickles.

The initiative comes from villager Pauline Hickson who noticed the lack of protein goods particularly within the existing village shops.

The farmers' market will run on the first and third Friday of the month, from 1-4pm, in Challock Village Hall.

To see this clip search for 'food' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



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WE want you to feel completely confident using our great new service – so why not take a glimpse behind the scenes and hear directly from the people behind the www.foodforkent.co.uk site themselves?

We sent a video crew down from our sister website – the free, broadband TV www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Presenter Julie Maddocks took to the great outdoors to meet the people behind the project, the producers delivering their goods – and the care taken in packing your goods ready to be delivered direct to your door.

• To access the clip, simply visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk and enter the word 'food' in the search bar. Then click on the clip headlined 'www.foodforkent.co.uk'.



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We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

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Fascist sympathiser was sent to Dunkirk in bid to expose others

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ANTIQUES dealer turned fascist became an unsuspecting spy for the British during World War Two, according to secret files just made public.

Ralph Dawson was a gunner and regularly handed out traitorous leaflets to the other men, according to reports.

But intelligence officers saw a chance to use Dawson to expose other Nazi sympathisers, so they sent him to the front-line at Dunkirk from his Army base in Margate. The papers said he was a man who relished Nazi military victories and actively spread the fascists' message.

He did not want the Allies to win the war and distributed material for Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists – the notorious Blackshirts.

But it seems he was played at his own game, according to the National Archives papers. Dawson joined the BUF in 1939, just before war broke out. He was recruited by a customer, Lady Pearson, who was the BUF's secretary.

Dawson joined up for service in 1940 but was distributing the far-right group's magazine, Action, to other soldiers.

The security service papers reveal Dawson, from Canterbury, was sent to the front in the hope he might expose other fascist sympathisers.

His record in the Army was "particularly bad", his file stated, and he could not "be trusted to behave loyally".

A Home Office note said: "He told another bombardier he was a leading member of an organisation whose object was the destruction by revolution of the system at present in force in this country."

"Dawson also said it would be unfortunate if Britain were to win the war outright. He had also been heard to say that he would refuse to fight abroad."

Incriminate

Another file recorded that: "On 28/5/40 we received a third report that Dawson, on hearing news of enemy advances, openly exhibited delight."

A note in his security service file said: "After being transferred to Dunkirk from Margate, it was thought that Dawson, if given enough latitude, may incriminate others as well as himself in affairs that were detrimental to HM Government."

The Dunkirk plan never led to others being exposed and Dawson was sent to jail for a short time in 1941.

After his release, police found a membership certificate for a group called the Hail Mosley Fight 'Em All Association.

Dawson was jailed again, but released in March, 1942, because his mother had terminal cancer. He was banned from Kent and forced to report fortnightly to the police.

But the following month Canterbury police said they had a "very strong suspicion" that he had daubed fascist slogans around the city. He was also the composer of a right-wing song, Hymn to Britain, which was used at BUF meetings.

After the war Dawson performed at theatres across the country as an actor, using the stage name Gerald Murrell, and penned an anti-Semitic book called Lord Over All The Land in 1947.

The authorities were sufficiently worried about his activities that he was watched until at least 1951, where the current released file ends.

What happened to Dawson after this time is shrouded in mystery.

But a spokesman for the National Archives said: "These files are not released if the individual is alive, or is believed to be alive."

Strange case of the soldier who wanted Britain to fall



RALPH DAWSON: Nazi sympathiser

Picture: NATIONAL ARCHIVES



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Crash kills driver

A WOMAN driver has been killed and two passengers have been injured after the car they were travelling in spun out of control. Police said the 54-year-old from the Swanley area died when the black Chevrolet Lancetti she was driving overturned on Shoreham Road in Otford at around 9.30am on Thursday.

She was pronounced dead at the scene of the incident, which was near Lullingstone Castle, and two passengers were left with minor injuries. One was taken to Darent Valley Hospital.

Officers said that as the car left the road it struck a 'glancing blow' to a blue Vauxhall parked in a layby. The driver was treated for shock.

If you have any information call the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 01622 798 538.

Singers rely on kindness of folk

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AN INTREPID trio are literally singing for their suppers as part of a six-month walk from Kent to Wales.

Brothers Ed and Ginger Stevens left Canterbury with friend Will Parsons without a

penny to their names last week, and are instead relying on their repertoire of folk songs to earn them cash for food and drink.

As 27-year-old Will explained, it is a technique which has worked well for them in the past: "The last time we did something like this, we soon ran out of money and so started singing on the streets."

"The first time we did it we ended up with a handful of golden coins, so we thought we would just carry on and see how far we could get. People would come up to us and ask us if we knew this song or that, and we soon learned lots of new ones."

"Folk music is the oldest form of music in the land, and it's still incredibly popular among many people."

"Ed and Ginger are both quite good singers and I'm OK, but I think it's the content of the songs themselves that the people we've performed to have really enjoyed."

As well as singing and learning new folk material, the friends are also researching plants, herbs and local traditions as they make their way to Wales.

Everything they find will be documented at www.awalkaroundbritain.com.

While the trio have booked time off work to carry out their expedition, Will admitted they were not following any maps to help them reach Wales quickly.

He said: "We don't have a route and we don't know where we're going. Local knowledge is key and people know their areas better than we do, so we'll just ask for advice."

"We've just had to leave our jobs and our



WALKING TOUR: From left Ginger, Ed and Will are singing their way to Wales

girlfriends behind for a few months because this is what we want to do for a while.

"A lot of people on our travels have told us they would like to do the same but can't because they are married, can't get the time off or whatever."

Although the friends are fully prepared to camp throughout their journey, Will said they have so far spent more evenings sleeping in strangers' houses.

He said: "We've been completely surprised. I had no idea there was such a thing as British hospitality – I thought it was a myth or something out of *The Hobbit* but it's been amazing how much help we've been given."

"This is actually a very kind land and people are not afraid to offer help and advice when they see fit."

"We were down to just £7 the other night, but after singing in a pub we left with a meal in our stomachs and £50 in our pockets."

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Anger at Kingsnorth delay

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

ENERGY Secretary Ed Miliband has been criticised for further delaying a decision on whether to allow a controversial coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth.

Green campaigners, residents and politicians alike have been waiting since the beginning of the year to see if the plans will receive the go-ahead, but have now been told a decision is still months away.

The Government was originally going to give its answer on completion of a review into the readiness of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, but a second consultation on the UK's coal policy has now also been announced.

Shadow energy secretary and Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark said: "The history of Labour's energy policy is one delay after another and now Mr Miliband is following this tradition of weakness and complacency."

"Less than three years after the last Government energy review, Mr Miliband is having another one."

"Instead of yet another review, the Government should adopt the Conservative policy of ensuring that CCS is fitted to all new coal-fired power stations. Only decisive action can guarantee our energy security and fulfil our climate change commitments."

"Labour's delay will put both of these objectives in peril."

Energy companies have warned that without new coal-fired power stations, the UK

would have to increase its reliance on natural gas – a scenario that would leave the country increasingly exposed to price volatility and reliant on imports from countries such as Russia.

Countries throughout Europe were hit by Russia's decision to cut gas supplies to Ukraine earlier this year in a dispute over allegedly unpaid bills. Thousands of homes,

businesses and schools were left without heating as a result.

But coal-fired power stations are hugely controversial, with campaigners claiming the pollution levels are unacceptable and carbon capture technology has yet to be fully developed.

South Thanet Conservative Laura Sandys is director of the think tank Security

Futures, with special responsibility for energy. She said: "The Government is dithering. If it made up its mind, rather than having another review, our energy security would be served. And if they made the right decision about carbon capture our environment would also be protected."

"What is tragic is their indecision. Ten years of lack of clarity in the energy sector has pushed major operators and new green technology companies abroad to work with governments that have a real energy strategy."

Kingsnorth is one of four UK power stations earmarked to receive £200 million in funding from the European Commission to research CCS technology.

It is also still in the running to receive grants from the British Government, which has committed to funding one CCS demonstration plant, but has yet to decide which one.

A Department of Energy and Climate Change official said: "A decision on Kingsnorth will follow the conclusion of the consultation on CCS readiness and the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal-fired power stations."

"We are aware of the need to ensure security of energy supplies, which is why we are continuing to take decisions on applications that will ensure we have the capacity to meet future demand for energy."

"For example, we recently consented to three new gas power stations capable of powering four million homes, as well as the second largest wind farm in the world at Gwynt Y Mor, Wales."

EDF to nominate Dungeness for new nuclear power plant

LAND next to Dungeness B power station will be nominated by owner EDF Energy as a possible location for a new nuclear plant.

The Government is inviting suggestions from within the energy industry and EDF decided Dungeness was suitable after holding public meetings this year.

External affairs director Richard Mayson said: "The feedback from the consultation was very positive. We believe Dungeness to be an excellent site for new nuclear build and we intend to nominate the land in the Government's process to identify suitable sites for new nuclear power plants."

The deadline for nominations is March 31, after which a month-long consultation will be held so the public can have their say.

If Parliament agrees Dungeness is suitable for another nuclear plant, EDF must put together a planning application that residents will also be able to give their views about.

Dungeness B is a 1,200MW twin-unit power station that employs more than 500 full-time staff but is due to be decommissioned by 2018.

A third reactor could produce a maximum output of 1,600MW – sufficient for about 2.5 million households – and provide jobs for up to 2,000 people during construction and between 300 and 400 throughout the following 60 years. Visit www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk for more information.

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Kerry's eye



DRAMATIC: This stunning seascape photograph of Leysdown beach on the Isle of Sheppey was taken in February last year

Photographer Ady Kerry is given the chance to display his favourite shots at new exhibition

By **GARETH ARNOLD**

gareth.arnold@kosmedia.co.uk

FROM tranquil landscapes to frenetic sporting events, the work of acclaimed Wingham photographer Ady Kerry offers a varied vision of the world around us.

And visitors can catch a glimpse at Mr Kerry's latest exhibition at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable.

The Eye of a Stranger... Objective Eyes? is the third exhibition by the freelance photographer whose work regularly appears in many national and regional papers in the UK and abroad – including Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer and our sister midweek Your Local titles.

Mr Kerry said: "The challenge for any photographer is to illustrate a range of opinions for as many people as possible, either in one image, or in a selection of images forming a larger feature.

"The power of an image for one person can be lost on another, which is reassuring."

Despite being used to seeing his pictures in some of the world's most prestigious publications, Mr Kerry says exhibitions are vital for photographers who are often forced to put their work at the mercy of picture editors and page layouts.

Richard Hammonds

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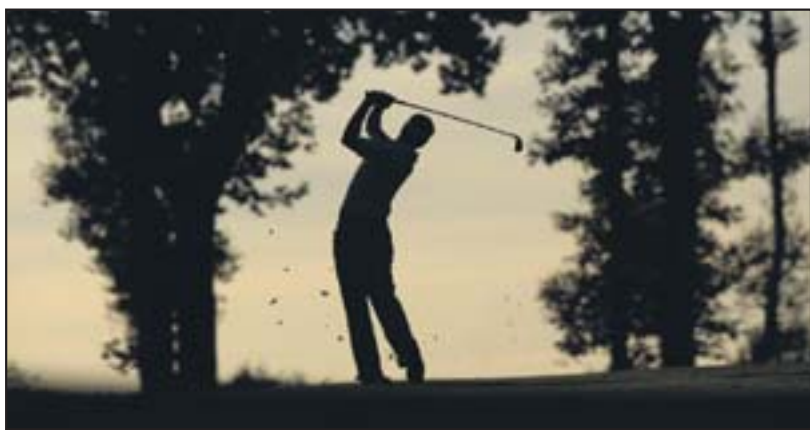
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FORE! Matt Ford plays his approach to the 18th green on the way to winning the PGA Southern Region Championship at Dale Hill GC in East Sussex in October last year

He said: "The lack of space and pre-designed pages often lead to the best pictures not getting published.

"It is a frustrating aspect of the industry which professionals accept, reluctantly, so having an exhibition is an opportunity for me to showcase the images I like.

"All artists have a connection with their work, and some of these images have an emotional attachment which wouldn't be directly apparent to the viewer, while others have the power to evoke memories of a time or a place which many people can equate to.

"The Welsh Six Nations celebration at the final whistle after defeating England on the way to the Grand Slam in 2008 tells both sides of the story, Welsh joy and English despair; while the landscape image of the sunset behind Brighton's West Pier shows how beautiful our world still is."

Mr Kerry is also adept at capturing calmer moments, and landscapes also form part of the wide-ranging pictures on display.

The Eye of a Stranger... Objective Eyes? is on at the Horsebridge Gallery, Whitstable until March 10.

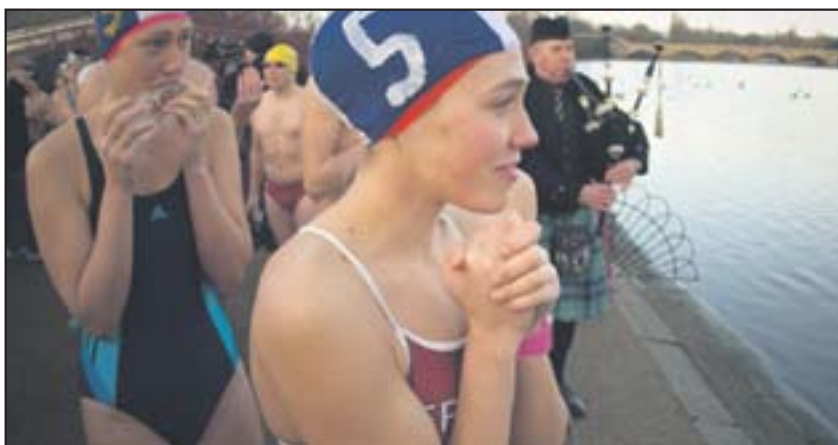


CHALLENGE: Leeds' Luomir Michalik and Gillingham's Simeon Jackson during a League One game at Elland Road

• *The gallery is open from 9am-6pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am-6pm on Sundays. Admission is free.*



FAST-TRACK: Two Hitachi 395 class 'Bullet trains' in the servicing depot at Ashford



CHILLY DIP: Swimmers are piped onto the pontoon before the annual Christmas Day swim in the Serpentine Lake by members of the Serpentine Swimming Club, Hyde Park, London

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Sat 7th	De Panne	£19.50	£17.00	Sun 19th	Cadbury World & Planetarium <i>New</i>	£41.00	£36.00
Sun 8th	London Eye, Carvery & Thames Cruise	£54.00	£50.00	Tues 21st	Montreuil	£25.00	£23.00
Wed 11th	Churchill Museum & Cabinet War Rooms <i>New</i>	£25.00	£15.00	Thurs 23rd	Boulogne	£23.00	£18.00
Sun 15th	Dickens World	£21.00	£16.50	Sat 25th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00	£15.50
Tues 17th	RAF Museum London	£18.50	£14.00	Mon 27th	RHS Wisley	£21.00	£12.00
Thurs 19th	Stitch & Craft 2009 <i>New</i>	£26.00	£22.00	Wed 29th	Ikea & Lakeside Shopping Centre	£11.00	£9.00
Sun 22nd	Windsor & River Cruise <i>New</i>	£22.00	£18.50	HOLIDAYS			
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Sat 28th	Bruges	£31.00	£27.00	Fri 13th March 3 Days 2 Nights Half Board			
Tues 31st	Ideal Home Show	£27.50	£22.00	Warners Gunton Hall Coastal Resort			
Sat 4th	Ghent	£29.00	£26.00	Mon 16th March 5 Days 4 Nights Half Board Including Latin Ballroom Dance Lesson			

APRIL		ADULT	CHILD
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Thurs 9th	Tower of London <i>New</i>	£29.00	£19.00
Sat 11th	St Omer	£27.00	£22.00
Wed 15th	London Eye & Thames Cruise	£36.00	£32.00
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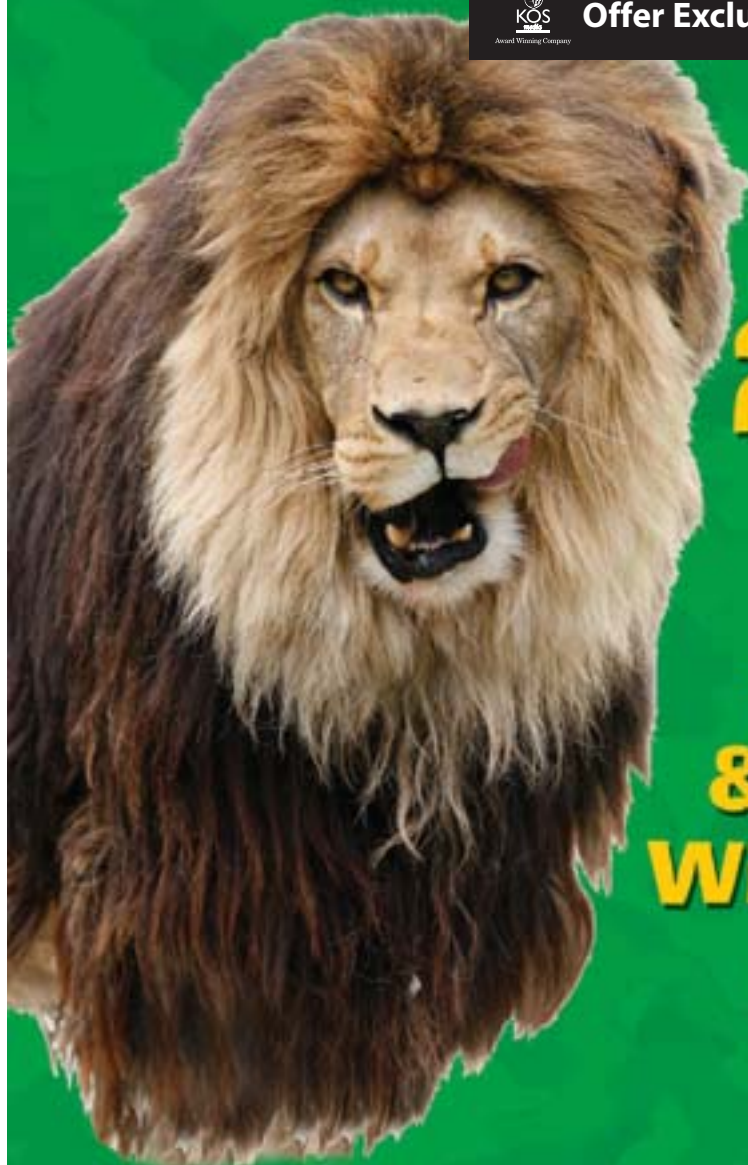
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Furry toy given to baby monkey to cuddle while mother recovers from op

Monkey's stand-in mum

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A BABY monkey hand-reared by keepers at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park has found a new friend to play with.

The tiny De Brazza was left a virtual orphan when its mother was left unable to care for it after having to give birth by caesarian section following a troublesome birth, so she has been given a cuddly toy to keep her company instead.

Donated by the Build-A-Bear Workshop in Canterbury, the soft monkey is coloured brown like its real-life friend and has a heartbeat that is triggered when squeezed.

Simon Jeffery, head of the primate section at Port Lympne, said there was a good chance the as yet unnamed baby could follow in the footsteps of two other previously hand-reared infants Hoggie and Keymon.

He added: "Eventually it is hoped that the baby will be able to join her parents, siblings and the rest of the troop."

"Both Keymon and Hoggie were reintroduced to the group successfully after a few months so we know from our previous record of hand-rearing primates that this works and it does ensure that they receive a good start in life."

Mr Jeffery had to make the quick decision to look after the baby when mother, Bamboo, had no option but to give birth by c-section.

While she is recovering, her two other offspring Ludo, two, and Hoggie, four, are being cared for by their 11-year-old father Tom.



SURROGATE: (left) Simon Jeffery, head of the primate section at Port Lympne, with the baby De Brazza and (right) primate keeper Matt Crittenden (left) with baby De Brazza, and Build A Bear workshop manager, Jonathan Cage

In the meantime, the secluded baby is spending time in an area close to her family so she will recognise normal monkey habits and behaviour, as well as their noises and movements.

Build-A-Bear manager Jonathan Cage stepped in to help the zoo out after he was made aware of the advantages of providing young primates in such circumstances with a toy to cuddle up to.

He said: "We were delighted to do something to help and hope the cuddly monkey will comfort her while she is not able to feel the warmth of her mum."

De Brazza's monkeys – named after the 19th century French explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza – are native to the central African wetlands but are so good at hiding that there is not an accurate species count.

One of the most colourful of all monkeys, they have a chestnut forehead, black limbs and white eyelids, muzzle and beard. When danger threatens they sometimes freeze to escape being noticed – a trait that is highly unusual in other primate species.

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Online singles are putting a price on love

SINGLE people in Kent are turning to online dating in their droves despite being too lazy to travel to meet potential matches.

Maidstone-based Dateline Platinum reported a massive 430 per cent growth in enquiries between December and January, which it believes may be due to unattached men and women wanting to get to know each other before potentially wasting money by meeting up.

However, the figure is in stark contrast to research released last month suggesting Kent's singles were generally unwilling to travel more than 150 miles for a date.

Dateline chairman Eddy Ankrett said the growth of the firm, which also offers a traditional offline service, was down to several factors.

He said: "We have seen a huge increase in our membership over the last three months."

"The New Year is always a particularly busy time for the dating industry, as many single people begin to look for new relationships with more determination after the romantic occasions of Christmas and Valentine's Day."

"But this year in particular, the credit crunch is also encouraging more people to use online services to look for a partner in a more cost-effective way as meeting people for dinners, drinks and nights out can be very expensive."

According to a study of 1,500 unmarried adults by Vauxhall, the average distance love-seeking British singles drive each week to meet dates or a long-distance partner is 29 miles.

Some 19 per cent of those questioned had met up with someone more than 150 miles from home, but Kent was not featured on a top 10 list of the most pro-active singletons.

On average, the furthest people will travel nationally is 63 miles.

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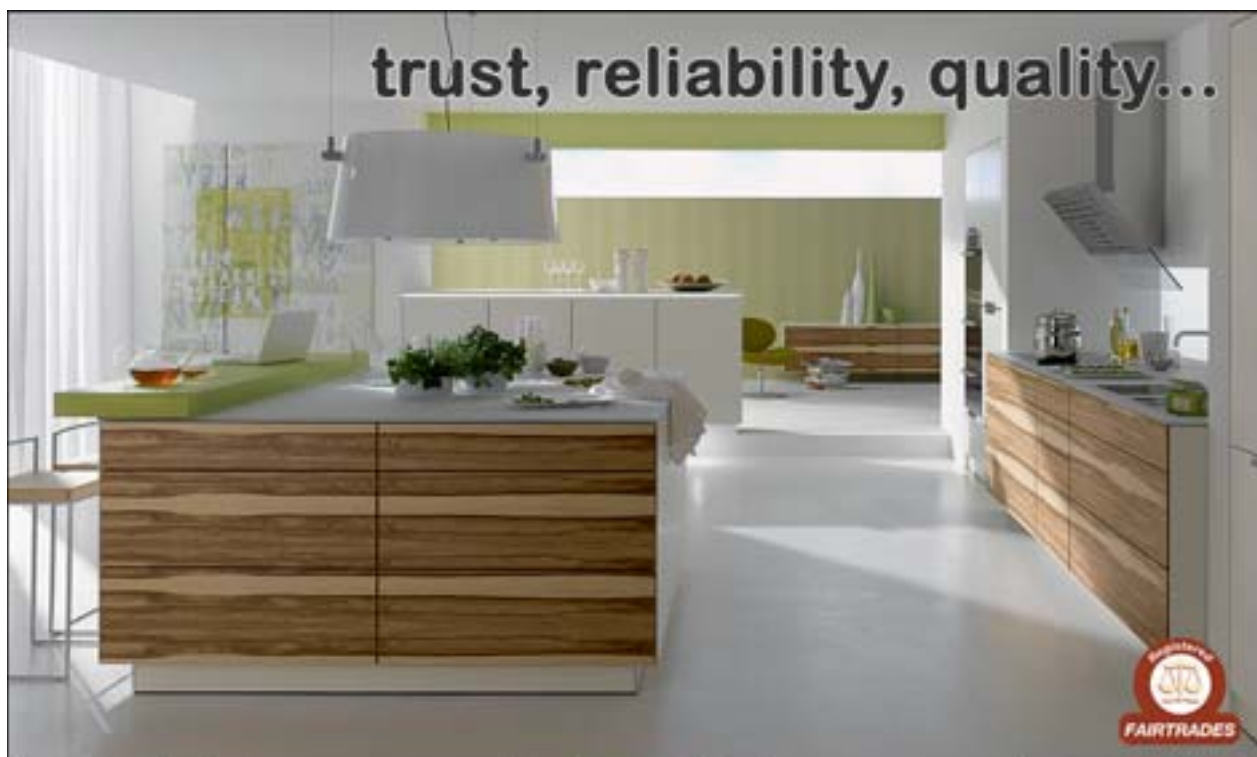
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THE Kent Game and Country Festival is amongst the first of the great regional game fairs in the calendar and is set to return this month.

This exciting event, regularly attended by more than 8,000 visitors, allows those with a passion for rural life to come together in celebration of this special and diverse lifestyle.

The Kent Game and Country Festival is at the Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone on the weekend of March 28-29.

The show's features will include:

- Clay shoot with Purbeck Shooting
- BASC shooting school
- BASC gundog scurries
- ATEO air rifle coaching and advice
- National Target Sports Association – 10-lane air rifle and five-lane air pistol ranges
- Terrier and lurcher shows on both days of the event (new for 2009)
- Fly-casting demonstrations and coaching with the world-renowned Charles Jardine

There will also be plenty for families to enjoy. Pick up a bow and arrow and try your hand at archery, marvel at the falconry demonstrations and get up close to the birds of prey at the indoor display.

The show will also have racing ferrets and a large selection of vintage tractors and machinery for visitors to enjoy.

New for 2009 will be the Petwise Zoo, bursting with interesting animals such as rabbits, snakes, gophers, lizards and creepy crawlies. The zoo will offer visitors the chance to get involved with animal-handling sessions, grooming sessions, informative talks and even beetle racing.

The show also features a game cookery theatre, hosting expert chefs who will demonstrate how to prepare delicious meals from traditional game meats.

There will also be fresh produce available to taste and take away.

The show is also full of countryside shopping – guns, fishing equipment, gifts, clothing, paintings, prints, food and much more. Parking is free and Samsalin Dog Rescue will also be offering a dog crèche.

KOS Media has 15 Family Tickets to giveaway. To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question:

Q) When is the Kent Game and Country Festival?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Young choir singers' Royal appointment

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE EXCITEMENT and nerves are growing as schoolchildren prepare for a unique performance at the Royal Opera House.

Pupils and staff from seven primary schools from across the county have been busy rehearsing the new piece of choral theatre work, *On the Rim of the World*, which was specially composed for young voices.

The performance at the iconic theatre in London's Covent Garden next Saturday is part of a project called *Voices of the Future*, which aims to promote the enjoyment of singing and invest in the amount of material suitable for young people.

Cathy Snowdon, lead music teacher at Craylands Primary School in Swanscombe, said: "It has been a real experience for all of us.

Improved

"The children have got lots out of it and the fact they have been taught by Royal Opera House singers is just taking them onto the next level.

"It has had such an effect on their singing, listening to them over the last few months the quality has improved a great deal."

Opera may not sound like the kind thing of many youngsters aged between eight and 11 would be interested in, but Mrs Snowdon said the months of rehearsals had seen a positive impact on the children's behaviour.

The 200-strong cast also went to see the classic fairytale *Hansel and Gretel* at the opera house last year, which showed them the main stage they would soon be performing on.

Mrs Snowdon, who is among the staff members taking part in the opera along with her class, year five, said: "I think that it is helped by the director and vocal coaches because they have a really good way with the



WARM UP: Primary school pupils get ready to rehearse choral piece

children. They were told that they have got to be ready to work."

She said one of the coaches had made a big impact on the boy in her class, she said: "I think it's because they think he's quite cool. I do not know how much it's to do with the fact there is a man doing it."

On Monday, pupils from Horizon Primary School in Swanley travelled to London to be guests on BBC Radio 4's children's show *Go For It* for a programme about the project due to be aired on Sunday, March 8.

The children from Kent have been given a rare opportunity because it is the first time a new musical work has been commissioned for young voices and performed on the main stage at the opera house.

Mrs Snowdon said: "I think they will realise when they are older what a great opportunity it was because at the moment they are taking it in their stride.

"I think it has just been a brilliant experience for people. Not just the children but the adults as well. It has really unlocked the talents of some of the teachers and teaching assistants."

She said the work, which was composed by Orlando Gough, was really unusual and modern.

It was inspired by themes of home, family life, sleep and dreams and deals with the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Other schools taking part include Knockhall Community Primary in Greenhithe, St Eanswythes in Folkestone, Wincheap Primary in Canterbury and Lynsted and Norton in Sittingbourne.

Kevin Rainey, education manager at the opera house is running the project, he said: "There are quite a few aims of the project. It is very much opening up the children to singing and operas as an option and something they can enjoy.

"Music is not always an option for people because it is far too elitist or something they cannot take part in.

"So, we want to get over that initial barrier and dispel a few myths and get the children all enjoying it and taking part."

• For information and tickets call the box office on 020 7304 4000 or visit www.roh.org.uk.

News updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Police arrested Hulk after fight

THREE men were arrested – including a man dressed up in an Incredible Hulk fancy dress outfit – following a fight outside the Talk of the Town club in Herne Bay.

Police were called at 1.45am on Sunday to a report that bottles had been used in the fight.

Three people needed hospital treatment, including two of those arrested and one who had been assaulted.

Officers say there was a crowd at the scene and are keen to talk to anyone who saw the fight.

Call Det Con Steven Tring on 01227 868283.

Medieval body to be reburied

THE 500-year-old remains of a teenage girl are set to be reburied in Hoo next weekend.

The medieval skeleton was found in unconsecrated ground near Hoo St Werburgh parish church six years ago.

Archaeologists found the girl's skull beside her body – indicating that she may have been an executed criminal or suspected of being a witch.

Pottery found near the girl dates back to the 14th or 15th century.

Hoo vicar Rev Andy Harding will oversee a Christian funeral and burial for the girl on Saturday, March 14.

ISLE MAGAZINE SPRING 2009

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Death shows case of turning a blind eye

THE story of a homeless man who froze to death while CCTV operators looked on and failed to act is a shocking tale for our times.

Despite police and nearby shopkeepers raising concerns for his safety this vulnerable man was allowed die an undignified death in a public toilet.

The inquest this week heard evidence revealing how some people will go out of their way to help others, while some failed to act on the suffering showing on their screens.

When concerns are raised about Britain being the most watched nation in the world, with CCTV cameras following our every move, we are told they are not invading our civil liberties they are for our protection and for our own safety. But their 'watchful eyes' failed to protect this man, even if it was from himself.

Yet the cameras are there to help catch criminals, track terror suspects and in more Orwellian local authorities make sure rubbish is put in the right bins.

But in a quiet public loo in a Kent town where operators were not distracted why could they not have stepped in and used their omnipresence to save a man's life?

More power to girls

TO mark International Women's Day today Katherine Hamnett, the iconic fashion designer, who originally hails from Gravesend, is among the high-profile females taking part in a 'girl power' campaign.

She is backing Because I Am A Girl, a campaign run by the children's charity Plan, calling for an end to discrimination against girls in the developing world.

OPINION:

We need transparency

There'll be a high price to pay if KCC's relationship with staff and the public breaks down, argues Labour's Derek Smyth



READERS will be aware of the controversy about staff pay at Kent County Council.

On the one hand, there is the question of the one per cent 'cost of living' rise this year for the majority of council workers. On the other, there is the debate about pay and perks for senior executives. When we consider the one per cent offered to staff this year, people may wonder what the fuss is about. After all, we are in a global recession, surrounded by news of job losses, four-day weeks and pay freezes.

In that context people ask, is one per cent really a bad deal? Don't all council workers enjoy gold-plated pensions and hand-some reward packages anyway?

Despite the headlines, not everyone who works for KCC can command a six-figure salary. In fact, two thirds of staff on the Kent Scheme pay scale earn between £11,691 and £20,716 a year, before deductions.

These are some of the council's most important employees. Not in terms of seniority, but in what they do for ordinary people every day. These are people such as cleaners, cooks, building and road repair workers, the library staff who show you where to find your favourite books and the teaching assistants who help your children learn to read.

For these staff, even the two per cent uplift they were led to expect from KCC's medium-term plan last year would have been a

matter of a few hundred pounds. These are not people who can call on the services of a council chauffeur or holiday in Barbados, Bermuda or the Bahamas. They are the people most likely to spend what money they have in local shops and on local services.

If KCC was serious about backing Kent business, then as the county's largest employer it would do everything possible to boost the spending power of its tens of thousands of employees, especially those at the bottom of the pay scale.

Since fairer pay for the lowest earners isn't just about recognising hard work but also about stimulating local business, Labour members proposed an amendment to the council budget. We put forward plans to lift those employees on the lowest pay grade – £11,691 gross per year – up to the next grade, with a starting salary of £12,775.

But because we accepted that it wouldn't be right to expect the council taxpayer to pick up the tab, we also proposed KCC should target a five per cent reduction from 'market premi-

ums' (essentially, what KCC believes it needs to pay to attract particular staff) and from the aggregate level of senior executives' pay. We suggested that KCC should carry out a review of all posts enjoying salaries above £70,547 to determine whether these posts and their full pay and reward packages continued to offer value for money.

Yet the Conservatives voted our amendment down. This was despite their leader, Cllr Paul Carter, admitting he and his cabinet were already considering proposals very like our first suggestion, the abolition of the lowest pay grade. So why did the Tories block our amendment?

My feeling is that Labour's second suggestion, the review and overall reduction of senior staff salaries, was the sticking point.

Perhaps the review was rejected because it would have meant being open about the possibility that some senior staff could be on inflated wages. But KCC's reputation is put in far greater danger by the Conservative leadership's reluctance to bring transparency and restraint into executive pay

and rewards. For example, an email sent to inform staff about the one per cent pay uplift gave a reassurance that chief officers would not take their bonuses this year – which very few people knew they could get at all. The ensuing furore even made it into the pages of Private Eye. As a councillor, I believe local democracy can and does work, but only if there is a good relationship between a council, its staff and local people. That is why I am so worried about the potential this controversy has to damage that relationship, and with it KCC's reputation and that of local democracy in general.

John Healey, the minister for local government, has said councils will be forced by legislation to be more transparent about senior staff pay. I hope the message is taken on board by KCC's leadership before the three-way relationship between the council, its staff and the people of Kent breaks down beyond repair.

• Derek Smyth is county councillor for Ashford South and the Labour group's shadow cabinet member for finance.

Open Morning

Saturday 14th March 2009
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BEAT THE CRUNCH

Money Matters Guide

Inside your pull out supplement

- 100s of money-saving ideas
- Money-off vouchers
- Discounts galore from local trades
- Look stylish and save money
- Eating out doesn't need to be expensive
- The return of the caravan holiday
- Make the most of mortgage savings
- Why going green saves business cash
- Spectacular money-off vouchers
- Drive the right car for style and savings
- Credit ideas to make money go further

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to download vouchers from our
great savings booklets



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what's inside

Page 4-5

Vintage clothing is back and it saves you cash. We look at how the Credit Crunch is affecting fashion, and why many people are looking to the past for today's style

Page 6-7

Saving a few pounds here and there is easy really, your grandmother knew that. But we don't want it to make our lives austere. So, here is our Beat The Crunch fun guide to saving.

Page 8-9

About one in seven of you have switched supplier of your gas and electric in the past 12 months. But that figure should be much higher as we force suppliers to

compete. It really is easy

Page 10

If you are a saver affected by falling interest rates, our crippled banks will still sting you. Here's how to avoid it and why you should complain

Page 11

We all like eating out and as restaurants compete for our business there are bargains to be had. Here's where to look...

Pages 12-13

How you are beating the crunch? We spoke to you to find out your top money-saving tips

Page 14

Businesses that think of the environment are actually saving themselves a pile of cash too

Page 16-17

Great food doesn't mean spending a lot and we look at

lesser-known cuts of meat that can be turned into something special

Page 18

The return of the caravan holiday. This year is a bumper year with sites recording increased bookings and a shortage of quality used caravans. But 2009 is set to be a boom year and remember, children love them

Page 19

It's not even spring time but financial experts are urging people to plan for Christmas. Yes really, we explain why

Page 20

Going to the gym can cost you £500 a year, so it's no surprise people are choosing new ways to exercise

Page 21

It may seem crazy to pay

MORE for your mortgage.

But with interest rate at an all-time low, you could make a real investment in your financial future

Page 22

Our look at the financial markets where to make a killing at this tough time, we discover, all you really need is money

Page 23

And if you don't trust the markets or banks, where should you put your hard-earned savings? Well have you thought about art or antique motorcycles? Then of course there's the old favourite: gold

Pages 24-26

Motoring guru Steve Loader takes a look at the bargains to be had at the motor dealers and offers some money-saving driving tips too

Beat the Crunch, part two. Why it can be fun as well

LAST month's Beat the Crunch Guide hit a real note with our readers as we teamed up with businesses from across the county to offer you money-saving vouchers.

The vouchers can get you a special deal on everything from storage to clothing, discounts on cars and massive discounts on home improvements.

So we've done it again for March and here's this month's guide to making your money go further.

To get your free vouchers log on to vouchersforkent.co.uk, it really is easy and has to be worth a look. Even if you are determined to save, you might just find that something you were going to buy anyway can be bought for less.

And take a little time to look through this supplement, 2009 is not all doom and gloom as thousands of people are discovering.

It really can be exciting too, and for a lot of people there are many positive changes

happening in their lives. OK, we know that jobs are under threat, but there are some families for whom redundancy may bring a change of direction for which they will look back and be grateful in future years.

Of course, for other people the crunch has made them sit up and consider where their cash really goes. Many have surprised themselves with the realisation of the wasted cash they used to let slip through their fingers on frivolous items.

Saving money can be fun. Why rush to the unpopular in-

laws for that weekend lunch? Slow down, arrive 10 minutes later and save yourself a couple of litres of fuel.

Other people have discovered for the first time the joy of local produce through farm shops and cheaper cuts of meat, which can be delicious and really take only a little more time.

If you stop spending £3 or £4 every day on a lunchtime sandwich (which is £80 a month you'll save) to make your own, ensure your home-made lunch is something you'll look forward to. Pick sandwich fillings you love, or dump sandwiches, try baguettes or a microwavable pre-prepared meal. A bit of imagination goes a long way.

Simply, we believe saving money should not be about having a less enjoyable life, you can still have holidays, still drive nice cars and still look after your home to make it our place of sanctuary.

We hope this supplement helps you take a positive view of looking after your money. Remember life goes on despite the crunch and no-one wants just to live - we should have a life.



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Essential guide to where you can save

■ Signature Miramar, the retirement and residential home in Beltinge, Herne Bay, is offering 14 nights' stay for the price of 13

■ Colour Choice Conservatories in Margate is offering free colour on conservatory orders

■ Living Out Log Cabins in Chestfield and Maidstone is offering 15 per cent off plus free delivery on all DIY log cabins

■ County Garage in Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off Ford accessories. Includes car mats, mudflaps, boot protectors, scuff plates, alloy wheels, roof bars, chrome tailpipe finisher, dog guards, roof boxes, parking sensors

■ Home Plus in Ashford and Chatham is offering £200 off when you spend over £1,000

■ FG Barnes in Maidstone is offering free six-month road fund licence with all used cars

■ Orchard Spot in Maidstone is offering one free pudding with a main course purchased from the Sunday carvery

■ KOS is offering Alex classic light - one of the world's best reading lights, £84.99 save £30

■ Kentish Hardwood flooring in Rainham is offering 15 per cent off Karndean products

■ Morris & Turner in Medway is offering 10 per cent off any multi-fuel stove

■ KOS is offering a big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99 - save £20

■ Medway Stoves in Medway is offering a free companion set with any multi-fuel stove purchased

■ Positive impact golf in Manston is offering £10 off any lessons

■ County Garage in Herne Bay is offering a free winter health check and free 29-point including wash and vacuum

■ Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering three months' free storage for a year for all new document storage clients

■ Orchard Spot in Maidstone is offering one ticket get one free for music nights, meal only

■ KOS is offering all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together from only £39.99, save over 50 per cent, various sizes

■ KOS is offering leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton only £49.99 inc p&p saving £40 off RRP

■ Move it Removals in Ashford is offering £1000 cash draw when you get a quote. Plus 10% off removals booked

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Not just a pie in the sky idea

Despite the Crunch, one couple explain why they feel now is the right time to expand their food business. Sarah Jeeves and Kevin Davies spoke to reporter **Tom Betts**

ONE couple are defying the crunch by bringing a taste of London down to Thanet.

Pie'n'mash is coming to Margate's old town next month in the form of the London Pie and Mash Shop.

The shop is the joint endeavour of former south London couple Sarah Jeeves and Kevin Davies.

The shop opens on Wednesday, March 11, and will also be selling another East End favourite, jellied eels.

The pair already own the Ramsgate Cafe in Margate Road, Ramsgate, and they are sticking to the premise that quality will always out, whatever the market conditions.

Hence their decision to expand into a more niche market.

Sarah, 23, said: "We introduced pie'n'mash at the cafe and it has proved so popular that we decided to open a shop that specialises in that."

"We will also be selling healthy breakfasts and other snacks and jellied eels."

The shop's minced-beef pies are all freshly made and served with the mash and mysterious liquor that binds the dish together.

Although Sarah will not give up the secret recipe that makes up the green parsley-based liquid, she said: "It's such a key part of it and we think we make a fine liquor here."

"It is tremendously popular with customers."

Good food at affordable prices – now there's a recipe that's always going to be hard to beat.

Why this could be the time to start on your own

NOW is the right time to start your own business to secure your own future and beat the recession, according to Jake Shepherd, writes **Peter Richards**.

Mr Shepherd is managing partner in MSDC, a design consultancy, based in Gravesend.

He says the middle of a downturn was exactly when he launched his own business.

"People often find strength in the adversity of redundancy, a change in direction helps form a new beginning," said Mr Shepherd. "My agency began as a result of recession 14 years ago."

Here are his key tips to anyone considering starting up on their own:

- **Remember** that your potential customers may be disgruntled by the lack of personal service from their current large supplier who is feeling the financial pinch. As a small business you can be more competitive and provide that personal hands-on service your client needs in the current economic climate which the big companies can neglect.

- **There** are many fantastic small businesses out there, they can help provide the specialist resources you need. And you don't need to employ them, you can hire them by project or even partner with them. It will help you to specialise.

- **Think** what sets you apart – what is your unique selling point? It is unlikely that you are offering a totally unique product or service, so it could be your values, a price point, or your quality of service. It can be anything as long as it is clear and simple. I believe that this is fundamental to the success of your business idea.

- **Keep** up with your contacts and network relentlessly to meet more. This means your previous employer, your old and potential new clients. Write, email and telephone.



LOVELY LIQUOR: Sarah Jeeves outside the Pie 'n' Mash shop and, inset, dish of the day

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Vintage clothes and accessories

By **LAURA KATE BRADLEY**

BUYING and wearing vintage clothing is currently one of the hottest ways to recycle... and save cash.

An estimated two million tonnes of post-consumer textile waste per year are thrown away and end up in landfill sites.

Morethanwaste.com states that "...over the

full life cycle of clothing, there is a range of environmental, social and economic impacts. The growth in fast fashion and consumption is an important contributor to these impacts."

When opting for vintage you are playing an active part in reducing extreme consumption and post-consumer textile waste by recycling.

There are so many wonderful vintage clothes shops to browse, particularly in London.

However, many people don't have time to visit or simply don't have access to them.

Despite there being various online vintage stores, many are massively overpriced or describe and display items poorly.

Love Miss Daisy was launched in September 2008 with a view to providing affordable, high quality vintage clothing and accessories displayed



Lorraine says detox your wardrobe for charity



STITCH IN TIME: Lorraine Kelly is backing Cancer Research campaign for clothes donations

THE recession means more people are shopping in charity shops but fewer people are giving as they hang on to their old clothes to save cash.

Fashionistas in the south-east are planning to curb their spending to become 'recessionistas' in 2009, according to a survey by Cancer Research UK.

Nearly half (46 per cent) the people in Kent will be spending less on clothes and accessories than they did last year in an effort to beat the credit crunch.

Around a quarter (24 per cent) of people in the south-east said they would be looking for charity shop bargains, following the trend for sourcing unique, second-hand or unwanted items to keep up with the 'recessionista'

movement of fashion on a budget.

But Cancer Research bosses have admitted donations are dropping as people are more reluctant to pass on their old clothes.

Times are changing but the charity - backed by TV presenter Lorraine Kelly - has launched a 'Detox Your Wardrobe' campaign by spring cleaning their wardrobe and donating ill-fitting or unwanted items to their local Cancer Research UK shop.

The YouGov survey of more than 2,000 people revealed 77 per cent of those in the south-east admit to having clothes in their wardrobes they never wear.

However, only one in eight unwanted items are donated to

charity, according to a report from the Institute for Manufacturing at Cambridge University.

Lorraine Kelly said: "We all know that times are tough, but this is an easy way to help raise money for charity. Each bag you donate could be worth up to £30, and this will go towards helping to fund Cancer Research UK's important work. We all know someone who's had cancer so I hope everyone has a good sort through their unwanted items and takes them down to their local Cancer Research UK shop."

Bargain-hunters can also check out brand new items in Cancer Research UK shops or, if they prefer, browse online at www.shoptobeatcancer.org.



OLD STYLE: Vibrant red 1960s cocktail dress with sheer panels and sleeves; glitzy 1980s sequined butterfly belt; (above right) 1980s gold and black strappy sandals

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Book Club Last Wednesday Of The Month

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05/03/2009	Thursday	Rachel Gerrard & the Roger Allen Sound	Vocal and guitar duo	
07/03/2009	Saturday	Fletch	Hot Jazz from the mid 20th Century	£5.00
10/03/2009	Trad Tuesday	Blue Arcadians	Traditional Jazz from the 20's and 30's	Free
12/03/2009	Thursday	Frances Knight	Smooth Jazz Trio	Free
14/03/2009	Saturday	Tiffany Wells	Cabaret Style female impersonator	£5.00
17/03/2009	Trad Tuesday	ColRose Four	Traditional Jazz from the 20's and 30's	Free
19/03/2009	Thursday	Roger Lewin & Sarah Jane	Smooth Jazz Piano and Vocals	Free
21/03/2009	Saturday	The Bearing Edge Trio		£5.00
24/03/2009	Trad Tuesday	Deco5 Allstars	Traditional Jazz from the 20's and 30's	Free
26/03/2009	Thursday	Andy MacLean	Swing Sounds from the 40s and 50s	Free
28/03/2009	Saturday	The Barretts	Django Reinhardt inspired guitar duo	£5.00
31/03/2009	Trad Tuesday	Pilgrims Four	Traditional Jazz from the 20's and 30's	Free

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clearly and simply, with detailed yet concise and accurate descriptions and measurements. A welcome relief for those who adore vintage but either hate or have no time for rummaging through rails, shelves and boxes full of clothing.

A real treasure chest of hand-picked vintage beauties, Love Miss Daisy sources



CLASSIC: Stunning vintage purple and gold leaf Radley evening dress circa 1980s; super chic 1980s black and tan leather jacket; and above cute 1970s mini satchel bag; far right the Love Miss Daisy Web page

from Europe, the USA and the UK. Stocking fabulous evening gowns, sassy vintage day dresses, separates, vintage coats and jackets, accessories and all things in between, the collection includes vintage wedding dresses; an ever-growing collection of beautiful, delicate one off gowns at credit-crunch beating prices.

With celebrities such as Agyness Deyn, Sienna Miller and Chloe Sevigny wowing us with their integration of vintage pieces into their headline snatching ensembles, vintage is becoming a must-have. Many wear vintage to illustrate their

own individual identities and personalities, but for those who like to incorporate vintage into their avid following of fashion, take a snoop around the seasonal section. In what has become the signature of Love Miss Daisy, each season current stock is matched to current key trends, enabling fashionistas to remain of-the-moment in an eco-chic way.

The beauty of vintage clothing is that it's built to last. Many items have already travelled thousands of miles and had several loving owners in their past. It is fascinating to wonder whose life each piece was a part of before it became a part of yours.

Many of today's fashions and designer collections are influenced by past decades and bygone eras. So, when classic and original items are still obtainable, who wouldn't want to grab themselves a piece of fashion history?

Love Miss Daisy also has birthdays, Christmas and every other occasion covered, with gift vouchers available from the value of £10. Visit: www.lovemissdaisy.com.



To see this clip, search 'crunch'

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Julie Maddocks looks at how changing your driving habits could have a big effect on your pocket at the petrol pump

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Farleys Furniture store in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all lift and rise chairs and motion beds

■ Kingfisher Blinds in Ashford is offering motorised blinds for just £149 inc VAT

■ Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Ramsgate is offering rooms at £49.95 per night including bed and breakfast and free parking

■ H & H Flooring in Deal is offering an extra 10 per cent off all carpets

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Essential guide to where you can save

■ GG Racing in Ashford is offering £10 off a 1/400th share

■ Cox & Son furniture and soft furnishings store in Ramsgate is offering free checks, measures and hangs on curtains

■ Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off decorative flooring

■ County Bed Company in Tonbridge is offering 10 per cent off any headboard when purchased with a bed.

■ Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone is offering free winter health checks (normal RRP £19.99)

■ Something Old Something New in Westgate-on-Sea is offering 10 per cent off when you spend over £100

■ Winter Gardens Theatre in Margate is offering discount theatre tickets

■ St Lawrence Tavern pub and restaurant in Ramsgate is offering buy one main course and get one free

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering £2 off the full ticket price for Burns night/Pink tribute night or ultimate Swing Night

■ Spand Motors in Hythe is offering a free mini valet with any full service

■ KOS – Experience the natural comfort, warmth and luxury of a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99 save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Don't be bitter, there's



EVERYDAY foods can be used in a variety of ways so let's take lemons.

They can be used as a cleaner – applying lemon juice directly to deposits of hard water residue in sinks can dissolve them and make a bowl looking sparkling and new.

The juice can also be used to clean and shine brass and copper as well as making a good cleaning paste if mixed with vinegar and baking soda.

Adding the soda to half a lemon turns it into a tool to remove stains and scrub dishes clean.

Lemon juice can even be used as a polish for hardwood furniture if mixed with olive oil.

Then of course you can consume it. Cut into little chunks placed in an ice tray and filled with water it makes a perfect accompaniment to a gin and tonic.

And finally when it is about to go off – pop it into the blender along with some ice, a bit of milk and water for an excellent smoothie.

The credit crunch may be all doom and gloom – but there are still ways of raising a smile. **Nick Ames** took time to look at some light-hearted ways to beat the economic blues and have a little fun, too

MOTORING is a major cost for many people so how about some ideas to cut petrol costs.

Driving expert Tim Shallcross of the Institute of Advanced Motorists thinks that drivers can save around 40p a day by reversing into parking spaces.

He says starting a trip by reversing out of the space burns up more fuel as a cold engine requires more petrol than a warm one.

And as the reverse movement requires more manoeuvring than going straight ahead more petrol is consumed in a short period of time before the engine heats up.

Safety and saving can go hand-in-hand. Sticking to the speed limit means a saving of £12 on a 300 mile journey at 70mph rather than 80mph.

Pumped up tyres keep down wear and



tear and fuel costs and open windows on hot days are a more cost-effective measure than a fuel using air conditioning system.

Lastly – planning a route in advance to ensure no detours and off peak travel to avoid jams not only costs less – it eases frustration too.

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lots of ways to save

THE workplace can be a time you can save on costs as well as earn wages.

A thermos of tea or coffee means those expensive trips to a designer coffee shop for that vital decaf latte with cinnamon and nutmeg are a £3.50 thing of the past.

The same with sandwiches and cakes. Making them before the working day starts or the night before and you won't have to fork out for what can be an expensive snack.

Lunch times can be productive – go online and have a look for bargains and you won't be tempted to leave the office.

Flexible starting times mean beating rush hour traffic or being able to purchase off-peak rail or bus tickets.

So asking to get in an hour later and stay an extra hour can be a great benefit.



SHOPPING is also a major outlay so a bit of thought and planning can lead to substantial savings.

Picking stalks off fruit and vegetables before going to the check out can save weight – and so cut down on completely unnecessary cost.

If something is pre-bagged weigh it to make sure it's correctly priced.

Shopping around 40 minutes before a store closes will see many items reduced.

Also the need for urgency means that you won't be tempted to impulse buy as you browse around.

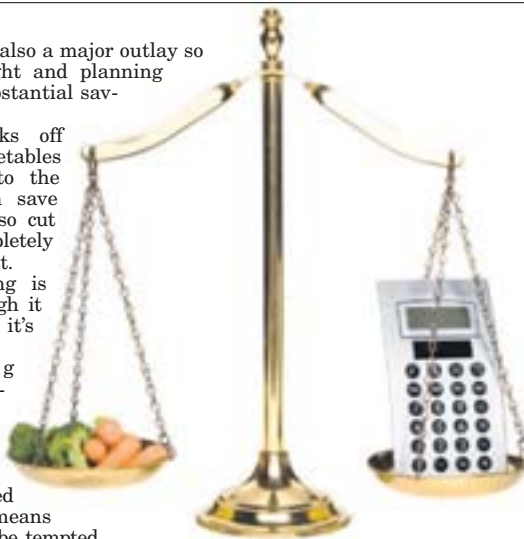
Supermarket own brand cereal tastes pretty much the same as every other.

But if you see the need to disguise your thrift just pour it all into a name brand box. It would take very refined taste buds to tell the difference.

Lastly, if you have children turn the whole shopping expedition into a Bargain Hunt style adventure.

Get the little ones to race around and discover the cheapest alternative of any particular product.

The whole thing then becomes a game – and the family is distracted from the fact that they are going to have to eat the cheapest goods in store and you come out the winner.



Essential guide to where you can save

■ Theatre Royal in Margate is offering two tickets for £20 (normally £14 each) for The Jives Aces on March 20 at 7.30pm,

■ Southern Antennae aerial and satellite shop in Broadstairs is offering 20 per cent off any service it provides

■ Thanet Leisure Force in Margate and Ramsgate is offering £50 off a family membership package. Discount available against annual payment or can be used for DD memberships against joining fee and daily rate payable in advance

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off when you spend over £250

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2000

■ GC Stevens & Son, garden machinery and woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering 10 per cent off stoves and flue systems

■ Lenleys in Canterbury is offering an extra five per cent off sale prices on furniture, sofas and beds

■ H & H Flooring in Deal is offering free underlay upgrade on all carpets

■ Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone is offering two for one comedy nights

■ KOS is offering a pressure washer kit £99.99 incl free accessories save £116 on RRP

■ Canterbury Car Radio in Canterbury is offering 25 per cent off all prices, on all RRP prices

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Spend some energy on cost-cutting in the home

We all know that switching energy suppliers should go some way to helping you save money. So why are so few people bothering?

By **NICOLE GROSS**

AS most people receive their quarterly energy bill for the winter period, a survey of more than 6,000 Which? members, by Switch with Which?, reveals that only 15 per cent have switched energy supplier in the last 12 months.

Around three in ten of those who hadn't switched said it was because they didn't think it would save them much money, but people that changed supplier or tariff using Switch with Which? saved £257 on average – enough to pay for a romantic Valentine's break, a Which? Best Buy Sony Bravia LCD TV or 571 pints of milk!

Of those who did take the plunge, 90 per cent found it easy to do and most used a switching website. When asked why they had

changed their supplier, price topped the list.

Customers can also make savings without switching supplier, by changing to an online tariff, paying monthly by direct debit or choosing a dual fuel option, where gas and electricity is provided by the same supplier.

Alison Morrison, Switch with Which?, says: "There's no doubt that 2009 is going to be a tough financial year and we're all looking at ways to cut our spending, particularly as the winter energy bills start arriving."

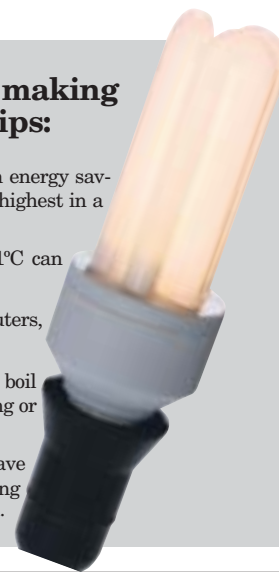
"People may be alarmed at the impact of last year's price increases and shouldn't bank on energy companies cutting their prices by as much as they increased them."

"The potential for an extra £250 in your pocket is a great incentive to change your energy provider or tariff, and help get the year off on a sound financial footing."

Customers can also save on their bills by making their homes more energy efficient, for example, energy-saving light bulbs use up to five times less power than incandescent ones.

Switch with Which? suggests making light fantastic with these top tips:

- Turn off lights when you leave a room and invest in energy saving light bulbs – the Ikea Sparsam stick scored the highest in a recent Which? test
- Lowering the temperature of your thermostat by 1°C can reduce heating bills by up to 10 per cent.
- Stop suffering from standby and turn off TVs, computers, radios and plug points when you're not using them
- Whether you're cooking or making a cup of tea, only boil as much water as you need and use the small gas ring or hob if possible
- Energy-efficient appliances are a great way to save money on bills. If you don't have an 'A' rated washing machine, try lowering the temperature of your wash.



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Take the heat out of your bills

A SLIGHT change in lifestyle choices could pay big dividends for families trying to beat the high cost of living.

Increased heating and electricity bills are two things which are combining to make spare cash an increasingly rare commodity.

At present it is people who have oil central heating which have been the worst hit – due to the massive increase in prices for oil which more than doubled this year.

A current fall in the dollar price per barrel has not been passed on to consumers by the oil companies – unlike petrol and diesel for cars.

It is homes in rural area, which use oil heating the most.

But I'd suggest caution listening to experts who say the best way to cut down on bills is either to switch to gas or electric heating.

They are set to rise as well, in the coming months, or install storage heaters which are a

By **NICK AMES**

cheaper alternative by far.

But changes to the home can be made – and these not only help save cash but are environmentally friendly as well.

- Better cavity walls and loft installation can make a major difference in costs.

- Go on your local council website and find out what grants are available.

- If you are on a low income or are a senior citizen, there's a good chance you can get some free money towards your home insulation.

- Efficient temperature controls such as thermostats are another way of preventing excess heating being generated. Older boilers can prove economically draining.

- Experts recommend replacing those devices which are more than 20 years old or any that are experiencing problems.

Savings in cost of bills will outweigh the

initial outlay according to home economic analysts.

- Old fridges and freezers should also be replaced according to the findings for the same reasons – they use far more energy than new equipment.

- Lastly homeowners should ensure that plugged-in appliances are turned off at the sockets when they are not in use and energy-saving lightbulbs are a must, they last much longer.

Free energy advice can be obtained by calling the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512012.

A home energy check which assesses heating requirements and recommends improvements in efficiency can also be done online.



GET SWITCHED ON: Efficient temperature controls (left) are a way of preventing excess heating; experts recommend replacing electrical devices more than 20 years old

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Farleys furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order placed over £7,000

■ Kingfisher Blinds in Ashford is offering one motorised blind either vertical or roller free when you spend over £1,500

■ H & H Flooring in Deal is offering free accessories with all laminate flooring

■ Spand Motors in Hythe is offering a free mini valet with any full service

■ Theatre Royal in Margate is offering The Riddle of the Sands March 28, 7.30pm. Two tickets for £14 (normally £12 each) quote KOS offer

■ The Captain Digby pub and restaurant in Broadstairs is offering a free kid's meal from the pirates menu with every adult meal ordered from the restaurant menu

■ Southern Antennae in Broadstairs is offering £25 off a high gain digital aerial

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering 20 per cent off in the Verve Grill or Victory Pub

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £100 off elevating TV cabinets

■ Acorns health and fitness in Chatham is offering a third off gym membership

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ Morris & Turner in Medway is offering an extra £10 off Taurus vanity units and basins

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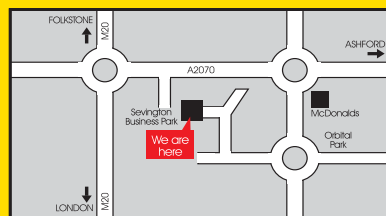
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Don't bank on getting away with an overdraft

AT a time when banks are feeling the pinch as much as anyone – if not more so – it is vital for savers to balance their books.

Those who go overdrawn need to beware as banks will be quick off the mark when it comes to charging them cash penalties which can reach as much as £40 – half of which can be charged for just writing a warning letter.

Charges have been imposed on millions of people across Britain, and in some cases they have been viewed as unfair by financial watchdogs.

And at times of economic hardship they are the last things cash-strapped consumers want to fork out for.

According to Money Expert, the penalty for exceeding an account limit has shot up some 20 per cent over the last 12 months, with the typical levy now standing at around £30 every time this happens in an account.

In such circumstances, struggling consumers may find that going overdrawn further hits their ability to meet payment responsibilities such as personal loans, credit cards or mortgage contributions.

Customers who slip into minor difficulties can see a mountain of debts pile-up, as banks charge £20 or more to send a letter and charge large amounts for going into overdrafts and missing direct debits.

The website Money Expert states that hikes in unauthorised overdraft fees – equivalent to an additional five pounds every time a limit is

BY **ANDREW JACKSON**

exceeded – come in spite of an ongoing investigation in whether such charges are in any way justified.

In a landmark case brought by the Office of Fair Trading, banks are coming under scrutiny for charging such high fees, with certain quarters claiming that they are disproportionate to the costs incurred by the bank for processing the transaction.

Commenting on the situation, Sean Gardner, director of Money Expert, said consumers may be particularly exposed to these punitive charges in the coming months.

He said: "For those people already in their overdrafts the advice is clear, keep a close tab on your outgoings."

But customers who have been charged up to £40 for unauthorised overdrafts, bounced cheques, or failed direct debits are now fighting back against the bank charges.

Banks have long been accused of ripping off customers with the high charges they impose for minor account problems.

Statistics show complaints against banks have soared, according to the Banking Code Standards Board, with most about interest rates and unfair charges.

And public anger at the bonuses given to bankers whose actions have led to the global economic meltdown have fueled the feelings of resentment.



CHARGES: Banks will be quick off the mark to send you a penalty letter for going overdrawn – it could reach up to £40

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lindsay's Driver Training in Hythe is offering a Learner Driver starter pack for only £95 which includes four lessons, theory training DVD Rom, Highway Code, Theory Q&A book, £60 pass plus discount (for under 20s) Young marmalade kit (low car insurance and cars for new drivers)

■ GC Stevens & Son, garden machinery and woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering £10 off Honda mower servicing and £20 off Honda and Husqvarna ride on mower servicing

■ Clarkes Furnishers in Maidstone is offering a free power upgrade. Pay for a manual recliner and upgrade to a power version free. G Plan upholstery

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off upholstery orders over £1,500

■ The Fireplace in Sittingbourne is offering 10 per cent off

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering 50 per cent off its Sunday night pasta buffet

■ Thanet Leisure Force in Margate and Ramsgate is offering £100 off joining fee. At any Thanet leisure force fitness studio when you sign up to any membership package

■ Farleys furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half price duvets and pillows with every bed purchased

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose. It saves time and money uses up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

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*Man.rec.price Offer ends Sunday 29th March



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BY NICK AMES

AS the credit crunch well and truly bites diners would probably be excused for feeling that getting a table at a restaurant should be a lot easier.

Well in some cases that's true.

In one case I know of a friend who never managed to eat at London's top tables currently rings some of those who snubbed him in mid afternoon – and asks if they have any tables available for 8pm.

"Certainly Sir," replies the obsequious Maitre de. Laughing my friend replies "Thought so" and puts the phone down.

Top restaurants across the world are all now accepting last-minute bookings which they would have sneered at a year ago.

I got a table at Balthazar in downtown New York after walking in off the street whereas two years ago I called the place up only to be told Madonna had block booked it.

But for the slightly less exclusive places it is not proving easy at all to get bums on seats.

Middle market chains, such as Pizza Express, Pizza Hut, Strada and Japanese noodle bar Wagamama are attracting thousands of customers every week with discount offers and two-for-one specials.

These deals are being downloaded from the internet by bargain-hunting diners across the country each week.

And then there are the coupons given away with newspapers, especially the Sundays who seem to have an offer a week.

Analysts say the reason that the middle market is making such an effort is that they have relatively high fixed costs and so profit margins are tight in times of plenty.

So when fewer people are opting to eat out they can see the profit-loss equation go into the red.

But chains have to be very cautious when they offer deals on meals.



CREDIT MUNCH: Middle-market chains are attracting thousands of customers every week

Bargain deals, get a pizza the action

Usually one thing which will not be any cheaper is drink. Alcohol has one of the highest mark ups of anything served in restaurants so you'll rarely see a buy one beer and get one free on offer. The odd free bottle of wine per table of four would be more likely.

But restaurants catering for families and middle income people know they have to work hard if they are to survive.

Richer people will always eat out say the

experts – and there is always going to be the demand for a Chinese or Indian takeaway right across the board.

It's the middle market which is suffering as waiting areas packed in pizza restaurants show and queues outside the high street Italian eateries demonstrate.

There are bargains out there and make sure you take a look on the restaurant chains website before you go.

To see this clip, search 'crunch'

@ yourkenttv.co.uk



2008 12/04 @ 18:45

100% Full Screen

You don't need to go abroad on holiday. We discover what's on your doorstep that will save you money

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Holiday Inn Express in Ramsgate is offering conference room hire for £95 per day including LCD projector, flipchart, pens and one round of coffee plus free parking

■ GG Racing in Ashford is offering £40 off a 1/100th share in racing shares

■ Elephant Windows in Ramsgate is offering £100 off with any order placed over £2,000

■ A & A Gliderobes in Canterbury is offering up to £100 off

■ Kentish Hardwood in Rainham is offering 10 per cent off carpets

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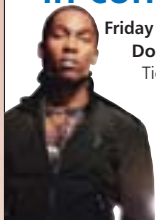
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Tickets £17.50,
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WHAT'S ON AT THE WINTER GARDENS

MARCH 2009

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th
Jackyll & Hyde

Monday 23rd
Kasabian in Concert

APRIL 2009

Saturday 4th
Disco Inferno

Sunday 5th
The Enemy in Concert

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th
Thanet Beer Festival

Saturday 18th
Essence of Ireland

Sunday 19th
Sooty in Space

MAY 2009

Wednesday 6th
Rob Brydon plus support

Monday 11th
Leon Jackson and
Same Difference in Concert

Sunday 17th
Rhidian Roberts in Concert

Tuesday 26th - Saturday 30th
"A Night On The Town"

M.O.S Variety

Sunday 7th
Central Band of
The Royal British Legion

Friday 12th
Here Comes The Boys

JUNE 2009

Saturday 13th
An Audience with Sally Morgan

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st
Margate's Big Event

JULY 2009

Friday 3rd
The TakeThat Experience

Saturday 4th
Dead Ringer From Hell

Wednesday 8th - 11th
Childrens Showtime

Friday 17th
The 3 Degrees & Support

Saturday 25th
"In Dreams" Featuring Music
from Roy Orbison

Friday 31st
The Real Thing

Friends Of Winter Gardens (FOWG)

The Winter Gardens has a reward scheme to enable patrons to get the best out of the venue and more for their money!

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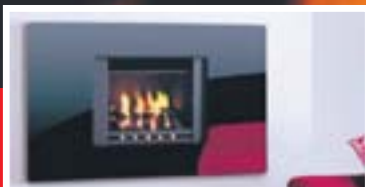
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How is the

We took to the streets of Kent to find out what you think...



ROBIN ADAIR FROM WILLESBOROUGH, ASHFORD, SAID:

“ I have lost a couple of window cleaning jobs in the town, like Woolworths. It's hard to know who to blame. It's all about greed. We can all cut back on things but that won't help the economy ”

DARREN GOLDER, MOBILE PHONE SHOP MANAGER IN ASHFORD, SAID:

“ I have less spending money these days and have cut back on a lot of luxuries. Our customers aren't worried about new phones at the moment; they are worried about their tariff and airtime. They want to know they are getting good value for money. ”



KIM SHEARER, FROM DOVER, SAID:

“ I haven't been spending as much as I usually would, but that's since I had a new conservatory put up in my house last year which I put on my credit card. I don't want to spend too much extra while I'm still paying for that. ”

CONAN EVERETT, 24, FROM DOVER, SAID:

“ I got made redundant back in January but I've been lucky and have got back into work already. I'm self-employed now. I think I'll be cutting back on what I spend from now on though, like not buying video games and other things that I'd usually just go out and get without thinking about. ”



JO CLARK, 24, FROM BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, SAID:

“ To save money during the credit crunch I have started to make cut backs such as taking home-made lunch to work instead of going out to buy it, and not using my mobile phone as much. I am hoping to buy a house soon so I have even more of an incentive to save. ”

MARIA CRITTENDEN, 41, FROM BARMING, MAIDSTONE, SAID:

“ I haven't been affected by the credit crunch too much, it seems to be the people who are in debt and I'm lucky I'm not. I have cut back slightly on expensive things and gone for cheaper options when it comes to make-up, food and clothes but I think everyone has. ”



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crunch affecting you?

ANDREW RAMSBOTTOM, 32, UNEMPLOYED OF STAR HILL, ROCHESTER, SAID:



“I’m absolutely skint. I lost my job in October and have found it difficult to get work. I have to watch what I spend my money on. Luxury items such as TVs go right out the window.”

JULIA DRUMMOND-HAIG, 24, A DESIGNER OF HIGH STREET, ROCHESTER, SAID:

“The credit crunch has not affected me at all. I haven’t spent less, in fact I’ve probably spent more because everything’s much cheaper now, with the high street shops slashing their prices. I’m quite happy with the credit crunch.”



CHARLES HAGGER, 55, FROM FOLKESTONE, JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR OF A MARKETING COMPANY



“We’ve certainly had the best January that I can remember, in fact we believe we will actually grow during the recession. You get your return on investments from being online, in digital marketing, so we don’t expect to do so many brochures and things like that. I haven’t personally had to make any cutbacks or change of lifestyle, I think the future’s looking bright, but ask me again in six months’ time.”

ANNALIESE BUSH, 41, FROM SMEETH WHO WORKS IN HR PORT LYMPNE WILD ANIMAL PARK SAID:

“I think I’m quite privileged as my husband works and we don’t have children living at home, so it hasn’t affected me too much. I don’t waste money but I’m not one to change my shopping habits. I always buy from the local butcher, I don’t buy packaged meat or anything like that, I do what I can and support my local farmer. I’m thinking I’ll invest in antiques as that’s the way to go, where else do you put your money?”



MAX DELLAWAY, 20, FROM MARGATE SAID:



“I think the credit crunch has affected everyone’s life. If people don’t have any money how can they spend it? My income isn’t bad at the moment but I go out less now. I used to go out a lot at weekends, but now a lot less, it’s actually quite boring.”

FRANK CALLAGHAN, 65, FROM BROADSTAIRS SAID:

“Prices have gone up and being on a pension it’s hard to make ends meet. I go without a few things, yes. Food prices have gone up, I noticed in Sainsbury’s and Tesco a cucumber is £1.28 each, and I love a cucumber sandwich. I have cut down on the thermostat and put on an extra pullover or something like that to keep warm now and things like that.”



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Employing greener ways

Eco companies save money and have happier staff

If you're thinking about moving or refurbishing your office, taking an environmental approach offers real, practical business benefits – for your people, your reputation and importantly your profits.

Here are our top 10 reasons to 'go green':

1 Save money

Being a sustainable organisation can add to your bottom line. Energy saving lighting, heating and ventilation in your offices reduces energy bills. Savings go straight to your profits.

For example, a company that turns over £1 million. Saving 20 per cent on their £40,000 annual energy costs is equivalent to increasing their profit by eight per cent.

2 Cut your tax bill

Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme (ECAs) is a government plan that gives tax breaks to companies if they install certain energy efficient equipment and machinery. Put simply, you can write off the whole of the capital cost of your investment against your taxable profits.

So it's a boost to your cash flow, and your investment takes less time to pay for itself.

3 Staff save you money

Protecting our planet has become an important issue and it is likely that your staff will want to make a real difference. Encouraging it in the office can tap into that commitment within your team.

One way is to promote recycling. So if you're

By **LARA CONAWAY**

planning a move or refurbishment you could, for example, build recycling points into your design, rather than having individual rubbish bins. You'll save paper and reduce your costs.

4 Stay on the right side of legislation

The government is getting serious about going green, and new legislation is constantly coming into force. That can mean hefty fines for companies that don't comply.

Take the European Union's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)2. It was introduced in 2006 to encourage companies to reduce the environmental impact of their buildings. And in January 2009, it becomes law. So if you're planning changes in your office, thinking about the EPBD now could save the headache of financial penalties later.

5 Avoid negative press

Environmental protection organisations are taking a stand against companies they believe aren't considering their responsibilities. Greenpeace, for example, has staged protests where they've found companies using illegally sourced timber from protected forests. Save time and cash by dealing with protestors by avoiding materials which may cause protest.

6 Improve your brand

Consumers and companies are increasingly showing their environmental awareness by choosing to deal with responsible companies. So taking a green stance can give you credibility – and the edge over the competition, which should benefit your profile and profits.

7 Attract the best employees

There's a whole generation of younger work-

ers who've grown up learning about the importance of environmental issues – and it's now a key social concern. Reflecting those ideas at work can be a big attraction for potential employees.

This was shown in a recent survey by Eversheds. Two-thirds of employees said that their working environment had a significant influence on whether or not they'd accept a job.

8 It can keep your team healthy

A green workplace can help reduce absenteeism in your office. Plenty of fresh air and natural light are good starting points.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are substances that can be harmful to health. They include formaldehyde, which is in the top 10 per cent of the most hazardous substances to human health. Yet it's found all over many offices, in everything from fabric finishes and fire retardants, to gloss paints and insulation.

If you're considering a move or a refurbishment, choosing products that contain few or no VOCs can help to improve the well-being of your staff, reducing absenteeism... and making you money.

9 Retain staff and encourage loyalty

Your employees' priorities in life may not always match your own. For example, making money for you or your shareholders probably isn't top of their list. But the environment might be.

So if your team sees your company doing good work, you're more likely to have a happy, well-motivated and loyal workforce.

10 It's your chance to do the right thing

According to the Department for Trade and Industry, the built environment – including offices, shops and factories – is responsible for



GREEN SCENE: Employees said the working environment had a significant influence

47 per cent of carbon emissions.

Although it's not always easy being green, businesses have a real opportunity to be cleaner, greener, healthier. And it really can help beat the Crunch.

• *Lara Conaway is Sustainability Manager at Morgan Lovell one of the UK's leading office design, fit out, refurbishment and relocation specialist.*

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It's offally cheap and tasty

Nose-to-tail eating is set to become the big foodie trend of 2009 as people look to save money. Offal devotee and foodwriter Sophie Grigson shares her tips for eating innards, plus some tempting recipes

BY **LUCY CORRY**

LOOKED at buying steak recently? What about a nice, fat lamb chop?

If a trip to the butcher – or even the supermarket meat counter – is enough to make you feel faint, then it's time to follow the big new trend in food for 2009.

Offal – everything from oxtail and tongue to kidneys, tripe and heart – is where it's at, followed by other, lesser known cuts of meat.

Once just the preserve of food fetish clubs and wartime cookbooks, nose-to-tail eating is now heartily and hungrily endorsed by celebrity chefs such as Nigel Slater, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Gordon Ramsay.

Economic pressures combined with a growing sense of adventure in the kitchen and an awareness of offal's nutritional benefits, are now causing the rest of us to follow suit.

After noticing a 50 per cent rise in demand for cheap cuts of meat like lamb neck, Sainsbury's is doubling its range to include old favourites such as pig trotters, beef shin and lamb breast.

Product developer Georgina Stobart says these cuts are returning to supermarket shelves partly due to their reappearance on restaurant and gastropub menus.

"This year we're expecting to see a massive resurgence in nose-to-tail home cooking, as



INNARD IT LOVELY: Stuffed braised lamb's heart; and below right, fried liver, studded with sage leaves and caramelised onions, to take your tastebuds trip back a few years

people tighten their belts and look to spend more time 'comfort cooking' and preparing meals themselves," she says.

That's music to the ears of best-selling foodwriter and chef Sophie Grigson, who has loved eating some of the more unmentionable cuts of meat since she was a small child.

"The dish I remember best was sweetbreads cooked with banana and cream," she says.

"It sounds distressingly outlandish but believe me, it isn't. It is fabulously good.

"More familiar steak and kidney pie or pudding occasionally graced the table, but when time was short supper was more likely to be a plate of tender devilled lamb's kidneys, or fried liver, studded with sage leaves and caramelised onions. Tongue was another favourite, cooked, curled and pressed into shape, then sliced thickly and reheated in a sweet and sour sauce."

Sophie says oxtail stew – "so rich and irresistibly sticky and savoury" – remains one of

her all-time favourite autumn or winter meals, ladled over steaming buttery mashed potatoes.

She's keen to convert others to the cause and wants to put offal back on family menus.

"Many of us probably haven't eaten offal since we were kids but now it's truly time to get it back on our tables," she says.

"Don't be put off by your childhood memories or squeamishness and miss out!

"Offal is simple to cook and extraordinarily flavoursome, whether it's quick and delicious devilled kidneys or a homely, slow-cooked stuffed lamb's heart, there are cuts and recipes to suit all tastes."

STUFFED BRAISED LAMB'S HEART (Serves 4-6)

Preparation time: 35 minutes

Cooking time: Under 2 hours

4 prepared lambs' hearts

8 streaky bacon rashers

For the onion and mushroom stuffing:

40g/1 1/2oz butter

1 small onion, peeled and chopped

50g/2oz mushrooms, chopped

75g/3oz sausagemeat

15ml/1tbsp freshly chopped flat-leaf parsley

15ml/1tbsp freshly chopped tarragon

Salt and freshly milled black pepper

2.5ml/ 1/2tsp ground mace

1 small egg, beaten

For the braising sauce:

15ml/1tbsp olive oil

15ml/1tbsp plain flour

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and it's back on the menu

200ml/7fl oz good, hot beef stock
1 x 200g can chopped tomatoes with garlic
Dash Tabasco sauce, optional
100ml/3 1/2fl oz red wine
30ml/2tbsp freshly chopped flatleaf parsley
Preheat the oven to gas mark 4/180C/350F.
Prepare the stuffing, heat half the butter in a large non-stick pan and cook the onion and mushrooms. Transfer to a large bowl and stir in the remaining ingredients.

To make the braising sauce, heat the oil in the same frying pan, add the flour and cook for one to two minutes. Gradually add the stock, tomatoes Tabasco (if used) and wine. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat, season and simmer for five minutes. Add the parsley, cover and set aside.

Season the hearts and spoon the stuffing mixture into the cavity of each. Wrap with the bacon and secure with butcher's string. Heat the remaining butter in the same frying pan and brown the hearts on both sides. Transfer to a roasting dish.

Pour over the sauce, cover and cook for two hours, or until the hearts are tender.

Remove the butcher's string, slice and serve with creamy mash and seasonal vegetables.



Trot along for something different off the supermarket shelf

PIGS trotters have not be a feature of the restaurant menu or supermarket shelf for many years.

Nor for that matter have ox cheeks been popular for Sunday lunch?

But supermarkets are gradually reintroducing these cuts of meat to shoppers bitten by the credit crunch. And they will certainly help hungry families who need to tighten their belts.

Stewing steak costs around £4.30 per lb per shop, compared to fillet, which sells at £19 per lb. And pig's cheeks are £1.35 a lb, while pig's trotters are even cheaper at 90p a lb.

Maureen Strong, nutrition advisor for the Meat Service at the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, has looked at the relative benefits to those who start to eat the cuts of meat which were once a staple of the British diet.

"There will be variation in these types of meats, depending on the cut," she said

"Trotters are not renowned for their protein content above other cuts of meats, but this will depend entirely on how it is cooked or cut in the first instance.

"The main difference which we can highlight in these types of meats will be the food quality. Try and compare a sirloin steak to a stewing steak and you'll get a similar comparison to pig's trotters and, say, bacon or pork belly.

"The former will take longer to cook and longer to chew – the very reasons these

meats went out of fashion some time ago."

JC Rook, one of the county's leading butchers, agree that the trend is towards selling some previously less fashionable meats.

Maidstone manager Stephen Abbott said: "We are selling more stewing steak – that's really noticeable.

"Recently there was a programme with Jamie Oliver talking about how to cook a shoulder of pork and that week we sold out. It's a good thing on the whole. Selling these cuts of meat means we can keep prices of other cuts down – so everyone benefits."

Dietician Amanda Ursell thinks that making these cuts of meat healthy is all about the cooking.

She said: "The good thing about old cuts of meat, like oxtail and pig's trotters is not the meat themselves – as they have considerably less protein – but the things they are cooked with.

"These types of meats are fantastic in soups, stews and casseroles to give a meaty flavour. Add beans, pulses and plenty of veg and you've got yourself a healthy dish that is great value too."

And it isn't just these blast-from-the-past cuts driving down the cost of food. According to the experts, swapping the favourable types of meats for various other cuts, already on the market, could benefit those affected by the credit crunch crisis.

"If people feel afraid to take the plunge with foods like trotters, even swapping

chicken breast or sirloin for a shoulder joint can save a family up to 40 per cent," says Richard Cullen from Research and Insight at the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.

"The credit crunch has certainly created awareness for a variety of meats on the market that taste just as good – which is a good thing.

"Whether Britons will be running out to buy pig's trotters for their tea every night, I can't say, but I am sure favourable meats on the market will change."

SELL OUT: JC Rook, one of the county's leading butchers sold out of shoulder of pork after it had been featured on a Jamie Oliver (pictured) cookery programme



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Let's carry on camping

The great British holiday is having a revival thanks to the recession, so book your caravan for summer 2009

THE credit crunch is boosting stay-at-home holidays with a massive increase in bookings for caravans and camping sites.

With the Euro almost worth the same as the pound, people are swapping expensive foreign holidays for "staycations" with towed caravans or mobile homes according to travel experts.

Advance bookings for caravan and camping sites for this year are already up 40 per cent on this time last year. And sites are already recording an increased occupancy of 19 per cent – even though it is still winter.

"We confidently predict that 2009 will be the year that welcomes the return of the great British holiday," said Nick Lomas of the Caravan Club, whose membership rose by 10 per cent in 2008.

Quarterly travel and tourism figures released by the Office of National Statistics show that the number of visits abroad by UK residents was down by six per cent for the three month period during the later part of the summer of last year compared with the previous quarter – and in a recent survey by VisitBritain, the majority of those who responded said they would consider British holidays.

And statistics show that although 90 per cent of British people claim to be saving money in this tough economic climate, few plan to cut back on holidays. In light of the decrease in overseas visits, this suggests Brits are still holidaying, but without leaving the British Isles.

Caravanning is the most popular paid-for hol-



THE WAY WE WERE?: Caravan holidays are set for a dramatic 2009 comeback

(Painting Kevin Walsh, print £29.95 see www.robertopiecollection.com)

iday option, with a 19 per cent share of the market – second only to staying with friends and family. Although the UK offers many different options for those wishing to holiday here, records show that in the previous 12 months, sales of caravans and camping accessories have reached levels never achieved before.

Hoseasons chief executive Richard Carrick said the UK would benefit from the projected downturn in the 2009 overseas holiday market as consumers increasingly feel the pinch.

He said: "There is broad agreement that the overall number of trips taken by Britons will not rise in 2009, but neither will it fall much.

This means that the UK is well set to benefit from the predicted reduction in overseas trips.

"People will still want to go on holiday but they are likely to take short breaks closer to home as and when they can afford it. It will be a case of 'pack up the car and go', with a continuation in the ongoing trend for very late booking."

The Caravan Club is delighted with the trend and say holidaying in this country adds a massive £180 million to local economies.

Mr Carrick added: "This is the biggest opportunity to sell Britain ever, and we believe the travel trade will increasingly see the benefits of promoting domestic holidays in 2009."

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone is offering two for one offer on music nights tickets normally £12 each, now two tickets for £12

■ H & H Flooring in Deal is offering an extra 10 per cent off all carpets

■ Deco 5, wine bar and gallery in Whitstable is offering 20 per cent off food all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Light tapas-style menu

■ Cox & Son, furniture and soft furnishings-store in Ramsgate is offering interest-free credit on all carpet orders over £1,000

■ Angel Nail Studio in Ramsgate is offering first full set of acrylic nails for £22 and first infill's half price

■ Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off carpets

■ Avinco Limited in Ramsgate is offering 15 per cent off aerial installation

■ Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Carpets 4 Less in Ashford is offering 10 per cent off carpets, rugs, vinyls, laminate and wood floors

■ Clarkes Furnishers in Maidstone is offering bed bargains – buy a 5ft divan set and pay only the sale price of a 4ft 6in

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

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BY **ANDREW JACKSON**

It may not even be spring time yet but financial experts are urging people to plan for the future by saving up for Christmas.

Last year less than one in five of the people who responded to a survey by PayPoint, the UK's leading payment collection agency, made a serious effort to save for the festive season.

And one in 10 of the 1,000 respondents admitted they blew an entire month's pay and any bonuses they might have gained on gifts and partying – leaving them with nothing at all when it came to the month of January.

A total of £18 billion was spent across the UK in 2008 on Christmas presents despite the economic slump. Predictions for the coming season say this figure is likely to be exceeded.

And many families felt the pinch for a number of weeks following the festive season.

So it is probably not a surprise that more than 200,000 people have already signed up to begin saving for the holidays in nine months time with Christmas savings company Park which is a partner of PayPoint.

This figure is expected to double in the next few months according to analysts.

Peter Brooker Head of Corporate Affairs at PayPoint said: "Park helps people plan, budget and save for next year."

Savers can use PayPoint outlets to sign up for the scheme and these are located in stores such as Co-op, Spar, Costcutter, Sainsbury's Local and One Stop.

Gary Woods, Park's Managing Director, said: "Christmas is a difficult and expensive time for many, so our partnership with PayPoint will ensure that saving is really made easy with 21,000 PayPoint outlets across the UK and Ireland. On average our customers save almost £400 over the year, removing much of the worry."

"Everything is delivered in plenty of time for the festivities, giving customers time to relax and enjoy time with their families."



CHRISTMAS PREPARATION: Don't let the cost of the festive period catch you out, plan now

It's not too early to start saving for Christmas

Another suggestion is to enjoy the holiday season without all the stress and strain and budget-breaking expenses by having Christmas all year round.

Financial planners say, for example, if your son or daughter wants a new bike, don't tell him he'll have to wait for Christmas. He prob-

ably couldn't ride it then anyway.

Instead shop around for a really great buy and surprise him on May 3 and say that Christmas came early.

Spreading Christmas throughout the year is much cheaper and leaves you time to really enjoy the time off with your family.

To see this clip, search 'crunch'

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Setting up a small business? We've sought out the professionals to see if now is the right time to go it alone

Essential guide to where you can save

■ St Georges Chevrolet in Margate is offering free three years servicing extended AA roadside membership

■ Holiday Inn Express in Ramsgate is offering a room, bed and breakfast and entertainment package for £55 which includes movies, music and internet plus free parking

■ GG Racing in Ashford is offering free memorabilia – buy a share in a racehorse and receive a free mouse mat, coaster, key ring and fridge magnet worth over £10

■ KOS is offering luxury Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save up to 40 per cent off RRP

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Working out how to cut costs from home



By **TONY O'NEILL**

MORE people than ever are beating the credit crunch by keeping in shape training at home.

With gym membership costing around £500, exercising in the home is a growing trend.

Research shows that just 43 per cent pay a visit to their gym on a regular basis where as this time last year the number was 71 per cent.

Around a quarter of those staying in say they work out with their partners.

Hollywood personal trainer Cornell Chin, who has worked alongside stars such as Audrey Tatou and Leonardo Di Caprio, said home training has taken off in a big way.

He said: "The cost is of course a major implication. You do not have to fork out for a gym membership if you work out in your house.

"Then there is the convenience. No time is spent going to and from the gym, you don't need to queue for equipment and you can listen to your own CDs.

"Exercise DVDs can tell you what you need to know just as well as trainers and coaches. "Lastly if it's cold and wet outside you don't need to make the effort to go out.

"It's all there for you indoors." Although you can buy exercise equipment

for the home, the only item that is vital are dumb-bells.

Popular exercises include bodyweight work such as press-ups, pull-ups, skipping and jogging.

But specialist equipment in the home is also becoming more and more popular.

Nearly half of the people taking part in the survey said they had purchased dome items.

These included treadmills, rings, exercise balls, weights and even bars.

Website www.weightlossforgood.co.uk has identified exercises for home use. On the site details of how to lose weight are shown as well as ways of strengthening muscles.

Experts add that it is a good idea to check with a health professional and ask their opinion before undertaking any exercise, especially if it has been a while since you have undertaken any fitness.

These are their hints:

- Start off gently, and work within your comfort zone

- Increase your effort gradually over several weeks

- Maintain regular breathing throughout the exercises, try not to hold your breath - your muscles need oxygen!

- Try to keep strict form with control, not using momentum.

They also emphasise not to undertake any exercise if you are in pain or feeling unwell. If you feel faint, dizzy or unwell while exercising stop.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Cox & Son furniture store in Ramsgate is offering to upgrade your carpet underlay for free, give super for standard price, and deluxe for super price

■ Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off laminates

■ Avinco Limited in Ramsgate is offering a free consultation on digital TV

■ Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Clarkes Furnishers in Maidstone is offering £50 off the sale price when you buy any stressless chair and stool

■ Stonecroft Emporium in Broadstairs is offering free glowing bunny ears free when you buy a UV Tutu skirt

■ Lenleys in Canterbury is offering an extra £2 sq m off sale price of any carpet order over 15sq m, which includes underlay. Free fitting for standard rooms

■ Nasons in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off beds and bedroom furniture

■ Old Sawmills in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ PK Commercial Tyres in Ashford and Maidstone is offering £10 off MOTs

■ KOS is offering ultra slim Danish Skagen watches only £69.99 save £20 on the RRP

■ Thorley Tavern's Oak Hotel in Ramsgate is offering 20 per cent off its bar-food menu

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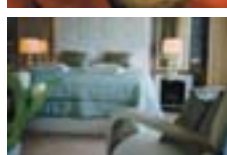
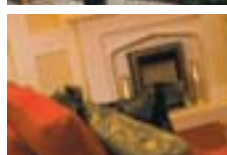
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Your mortgage could be a fast tracker to savings

By **GARY WRIGHT**

WE may be in tough times financially, but falling interest rates mean many mortgage holders have a great chance to make their lives better.

Interest rates were slashed again on March 6 to half of one percent.

So the advice is: Pay more.

Now that may seem crazy but if you have any form of tracker – the type linked to the bank base rate – or variable mortgage, you will have seen your monthly payment tumble over the past six months.

If you have a mortgage of £100,000, you are up at least £200, every month.

Now you could spend that money on some of the spectacular bargains on our high street, which is what the government wants because you'll be helping pump money into our economy, saving jobs, securing the future of Britain etc etc. However, a typical UK borrower with a 25-year £113,000 tracker mortgage in October 2008 is saving £218 a month according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. You can add another £45 a month after the February half per cent cut.

And if you carry on paying the same amount you should be quids in. Analysts say you could knock years off your mortgage and benefit by not becoming used to spending that extra cash.



QUIDS IN: HSBC (inset) wrote to tracker mortgage customers about the benefit of overpaying; and (main) Cheltenham & Gloucester's marketing director said overpaying is a smart move

From your own point of view, you are no worse off than you were six months ago but you will help combat any loss of equity in your house and you will be reducing your interest payments and loan term in the long run.

HSBC wrote to 30,000 of its tracker and variable rate mortgage customers to explain the benefit of overpaying.

Meanwhile, Lloyds TSB reported that since November it has received more than 27,000 requests from customers wanting to set up overpayments and within days the interest rate was slashed by another half a percent.

HSBC says overpaying by £100 a month on a £150,000 mortgage at three per cent will save £11,482 in interest and shorten the term by four years and three months.

Stephen Noakes, Cheltenham & Gloucester's

marketing director, is on record saying: "For those who can spare the extra money, making overpayments is a smart move. Not only can it trim years off your mortgage but with house prices falling, overpayments will help to protect the equity in your home."

Remember interest rates will go up again some time in the future and for the thrifty who have not got used to the current low rates, they will not be hit when things do start creeping up again.

If your job is secure, getting used to low interest rates is a bad thing. When they do start going up you will have to readjust. Yet now you can help pay off your mortgage more quickly and benefit from the fact interest rates are at an all time low for any savings you might have.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ County Bed Company in Strood and Tonbridge is offering 10 per cent off any mattress when purchased with a bedstead

■ Lenleys in Canterbury is offering an extra 10 per cent off sale prices of rugs, pictures, mirrors and lighting

■ Nasons in Wincheap, Canterbury, is offering 10 per cent off carpets

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off when you spend more than £600

■ Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild and Sittingbourne is offering car rental – book one day and get the second free

■ Robins and Day Motors in Canterbury is offering a free winter health check on production of KOS voucher (normal RRP £19.99)

■ Atlantis Restaurant in Ramsgate is offering 25 per cent off food from the a la carte menu

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■ KOS – Save £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine only £99.99 inc p&p

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Cash is still king

Some people are looking to make money as the financial markets collapse.

Sarah Hamilton discovers how some are managing to do it with investments

IN TIMES of economic gloom most attitudes are just “ride out the storm and let things get better”.

But for a few far-sighted individuals the cash trough is a peak of opportunities to make a fortune.

Back in 1974, when the UK stock market was suffering its worst decline since 1929-31 – it was to fall 70 per cent – the investment guru of the era, Jim Slater propounded a truth that came to define the period and later became something of a cliché – “cash is king”.

His words were: “You can’t always turn shares into cash, or property into cash, or works of art into cash. But you can always turn cash into other things.”

So, at the top of any would-be rich person’s list should be the retention of a pool of cash.

This empowers investors to take advantage of an opportunity when markets over-correct and throw up bargains, as this present crisis will inevitably do. A second basic principle to accept is the spacing out of investments over time to avoid the trap of buying at the top or on a short-lived ‘bounce’.

Over the past six months investors have sought to buy into bank shares convinced that they can fall no further – only to find that they have done so dramatically.

No-one knows where the bottom will be or when it will be reached, though this has not deterred investors from losing a great deal of money on the conviction that they alone are the ones that know. So be careful.



SHARES: Opportunity to make money?

Central to UK investor concerns is a return of inflation as pressure grows on the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee to cut interest rates. Investors can take out some protection through a product that has fallen out of fashion in recent years: index-linked Government stock.

This can be bought through a stockbroker or purchased through National Savings and Investments. It is currently offering two index-linked bonds of three and five years which pay a rate of 1.35 per cent plus the Retail Prices Index rate of inflation. The RPI rate is 4.1 per cent, giving a rate of interest paid of 5.45 per cent.

As the money earned is tax free, the total for a higher rate taxpayer is equivalent to 9.08 per cent. Investors can subscribe for a maximum of £15,000 through NSI.

Property is the asset class from which investors and their advisers most recoil at

present, it’s a brave investor who looks at real estate – particularly in the USA. But there are powerful reasons for doing so.

As with the UK, ‘average’ figures are misleading as the US market covers areas of almost complete price collapses such as Detroit and areas such as up-market New York City and California, where values have held up relatively well.

Another area of investor interest at present is arable land. Values have risen in some areas of the UK by as much as 26 per cent in the past year due to the higher world prices being obtained for crops such as wheat.

This pressure is unlikely to relax any time soon. And investors who do not want to take on the responsibility of farm management can invest through a specialist fund.

Increasingly attractive are exchange traded funds consisting of precious metals and gems which are traded on the stock market and allow cheap exposure to commodities previously out of reach from ordinary income people.

Investors should also widen their choice of assets in this category to embrace exposure to the increasing green energy and renewables sectors. Those who do not have the confidence to invest in this sector directly or who wish to spread their risk can enter through funds such as the £51m Jupiter Green Investment Trust.

One thing is clear from all of this information – there are plenty of ways for forward-thinking portfolio managers to beat the credit crunch and make strong returns even in today’s uncertain times.

To see this clip, search ‘crunch’

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Recycling may not immediately spring to mind as a way to stretch your budget, but it can. Here’s how...

Essential guide to where you can save

■ County Bed Company in Strood and Tonbridge is offering a free memory foam pillow with any memory foam divan or mattress

■ Lindsay’s Driver Training in Hythe is offering for you to train to be a driving instructor with £50 off a part 1 study pack

■ Nasons in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off tiles

■ Pomphreys in Sittingbourne is offering half-price MOT with every service

■ The Pavilion in Broadstairs is offering a buy-two-get-one free breakfast from 9.30-11.30am, on Saturday and Sunday

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* Admission to the trials is free but a valid ‘Key to the Castle’ ticket is required to gain entry to the castle and attractions.

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Golden advice for all you savvy investors

By **NICK AMES**

WITH confidence in the stock market at a low ebb, house prices down and savings losing in value, the question for 2009 is simple: Where can money be safely kept to ensure long-term future prosperity for those with savings?

As 2009 gets under way, antiques, paintings and even postage stamps or classic motorcycles are all seen as better alternatives than stocks and shares.

Old Masters, Ming vases and penny blacks are possibly beyond the reach of most mid-range savers.

But there is one thing that is guaranteed to keep its value. Gold.

Gold bullion beat all other precious saving alternatives in 2008, the second year running and the third time since 2005.

A £1,000 investment in gold bullion on New Year's Eve last year would now be worth more than £1,427, according to BullionVault, a global gold dealer.

During the same period, the FTSE100 index of the UK's top firms has dived by almost one-third of its value - turning £1,000



PRECIOUS: Gold bullion is a safe investment

into less than £689.

Then there was residential property, which before tax, maintenance and mortgage costs has transformed every £1,000 invested into just £870, according to Nationwide figures.

In part gold's rise over the year has been largely dependent on the loss in value of sterling against the US dollar; the currency gold is priced in. In dollar terms gold rose just three per cent in 2008.

But looked at long term gold is a good bet. The FTSE has plummeted by 36 per cent since its record peak of 6930, on New Year's Eve 1999.

On the other hand, since the turn of the century, gold has risen by 246 per cent against the British pound.

BullionVault's, Adrian Ash told website thisismoney.com: "Since Gordon Brown sold half the nation's gold reserves at rock-bottom 10 years ago this May, gold bullion has been by far the best-performing asset class for British investors overall."

Analysts have stated that gold looks very attractive in 2009 - if for no other reason that the year looks bad for everything else.

Historically gold rose during the last bout of sharp deflation in the Great Depression of the 1930s when US President Franklin Roosevelt revalued gold by 60 per cent and devalued the dollar by 60 per cent. This made gold's value increase from \$22/oz to \$35/oz.

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Savers cash in accounts to reduce motoring bills

By **STEVE LOADER**

WITH savings accounts currently delivering such poor interest, many people see trading in a 'gas guzzler' for a cheaper and more economical model as a better return on their investment.

And there is some 'green' kudos to be had. The Government is using escalating road tax or VED (vehicle excise duty) to drive people into smaller and cleaner cars too.

The current scale is zero to £400/year and set to become tougher. By 2010, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 road tax in the first year, although anyone spending £50,000-100,000 on a car is unlikely to be put off by such a paltry sum.

As a result, some manufacturers have produced models that are actually exempt from VED by sneaking below the 100g/km CO2 emissions mark and into band-A.

Most manufacturers also now have an 'Eco' sub-branding for their lowest emission models. Ford, for instance, is using the ECONetic label to highlight the most environmentally-friendly versions of key models such as the tax-exempt Fiesta ECONetic – arch-rival Vauxhall uses the ecoFLEX sub-branding.

Brilliant as they are, 'eco' models often cost more since they have diesel engines and special 'green' features that do not yet deliver the economy of scale savings available to makers across the whole model range.



FORD FOCUS ECONETIC: The ultra green version of the UK's No1 seller is tempting

VAUXHALL'S ASTRA 1.7-LITRE DIESEL ECOFLEX: (Right) Capable of returning a similarly frugal consumption figure

What is more, saving road tax is not such a great incentive when many conventional super-minis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year anyway; over three years with an eco model, saving £105 is irrelevant if you spend far more on buying that car in the first place and are then putting expensive diesel in the tank.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on diesel equivalents.

Diesel engines also tend to be heavier, so you could find yourself going through tyres more quickly.

Don't ignore alternative power options either,



such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG) or hybrids – see our 'Diesel called into question' article.

Finally, just look again at what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost a packet in depreciation on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lindsay's Driver Training in Hythe is offering ADi Training course – £30 off a two-hour session

■ Lordswood Leisure Centre in Chatham is offering free function hire

■ Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild and Sittingbourne is offering half-price MOT with every service

■ Simply Sofas & Beds in Strood is offering 10 per cent off beds

■ Living Out, Log Cabins in Maidstone offers free installation on all its standard range of cabins

■ Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering a free man and a van for clients renting storage for longer than three months

■ Baileys Nissan in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Dee's Bistro in Sandwich is offering 25 per cent off your bill on Wednesday and Thursday evenings includes drinks and "WOW" during January, February and March, 2009. Meal is from the regular menu

■ Home Plus in Ashford/Chatham is offering free bedding set with any bed or mattress

■ FG Barnes in Maidstone is offering free Diamondbrite paint and trim protection with all used cars

■ KOS is offering goose down surround pillows from only £24.99 inc p&p. Save up to £125 on RRP

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Diesel called into question

DIESEL has become the fuel of choice recently as UK buyers seek to cut costs, but do the sums still add up?

Part of diesel's appeal was the cheapness of the fuel, greater mpg and the ability of the engines to deliver better pulling power low down in the rev range and to meet tighter emissions legislation.

However, diesel now commands an increasing premium against petrol and there are doubts whether the engines can continue to meet ever-tougher emission laws.

Meanwhile, petrol has retaliated with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines with turbocharging and even supercharging for extra flexibility, while there are other options emerging to save money and the planet:

HYBRID

Current hybrids use petrol engines in tandem with electric units and Peugeot is planning to bring a diesel version to market soon.

But two powerplants and power supplies – fuel tank plus batteries – mean extra weight, while production complexity means higher prices so buyers need to cover many miles to counter this. Motorway mpg is also hardly better than a standard car.

LPG

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) looks like an excellent alternative fuel due to lower duty and emissions, cheaper car tax and grants towards the higher cost of buying new or converting older vehicles to run on LPG.

There is also a plentiful UK LPG supply as a spin-off from natural gas and refinery production of other fuels. There are many more LPG filling points across the country too – Kent now has some 40 LPG sites – and Proton recently launched a petrol and LPG version of its GEN-2 family hatchback for the same price as the petrol-only model (£10,765).

By **STEVE LOADER**

LPG costs about half that of petrol and diesel at the pump, emits about 20 per cent less CO₂ than petrol and slightly less than diesel and fewer NO_x and particulates than diesel. However, the calorific value and consequent mpg is slightly lower than for petrol and it will cost at least £1,500 to convert an existing vehicle via an approved LPG Association operator.

ELECTRIC

Electric-powered vehicles should be cheap to run, but battery technology cannot yet guarantee ranges to satisfy would-be owners. There is the worry too that the car's emissions are being transferred from the exhaust pipe to the chimney of a fossil fuel-burning power station.

BIOFUELS

Fuel derived partly from vegetable matter appeals since plants absorb CO₂ during growth and simply release it again when burned – a virtuous circle. They currently divide broadly into biodiesel and the petrol alternative bioethanol and most road fuels sold in the UK will contain at least five per cent biofuel by next year anyway. Some specialist vehicles run on higher 'bio' concentrations, but there is concern that using arable land or forest to grow 'biofuel' plants will strain global food supplies.

HYDROGEN

Use of this abundant gas to power electrically-driven cars looks like the future. Hydrogen cars are zero emission, producing only water as a by-product, but it is proving hard to establish the cost and possible emissions side-effects of producing the hydrogen fuel. It makes no sense for conventional power generators to burn oil, coal or gas to produce this emissions-free wonder fuel.



ECONOMY: Peugeot (top) is marrying its diesel expertise with electric power to create a new generation hybrid car to attack Toyota and Honda's petrol-electric models. Could it offer the best of both worlds? Meanwhile (below) Proton offers a petrol/LPG dual-fuel GEN-2 model for the same price as a standard petrol model, saving would-be buyers £1,500-2,000





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By **STEVE LOADER**

SAVE money by downsizing and running a cheaper car and then gain even more by smarter driving and journey planning.

For a start, you can save pounds and wear and tear on the car by avoiding short journeys and perhaps get fitter too by walking or cycling; a cold engine can produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm one and a car used for many short journeys needs extra servicing and wears its engine out faster.

More fuel is wasted and higher emissions are also generated from a cold start – traffic on UK roads contributes 26 per cent of the nation's total carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂).

However, if your car journey is a must then follow these tips from the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) and RAC Foundation motoring watchdogs:

- Plan your route – forethought can save wear and tear on car and driver. Try to take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. If you have to commute, think about car sharing, Park and Ride' bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly to maintain efficiency and economy. Under-serviced engines reduce fuel economy by ten per cent or more. Catalytic converters are environmentally friendly, but only when maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Anybody who has cycled on 'flabby' tyres knows what extra effort is involved, so check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Try to 'feather' the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style will save fuel, but never coast in neutral or with clutch pedal depressed to save fuel – vehicle control must not be compromised.

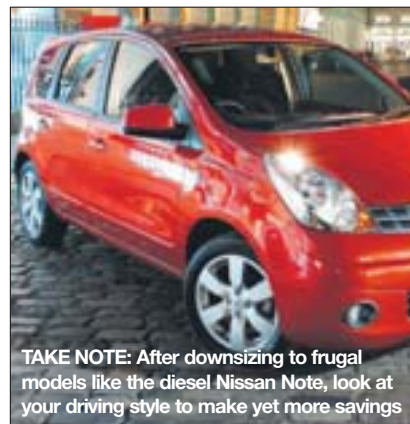
- Accelerate briskly without racing the

Clever driving is key to cheaper motoring

engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gearchanges at modest engine speeds can cut fuel consumption by up to 15 per cent.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use. Driving with windows open also mars aerodynamics and lowers fuel economy. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and avoid heavy accessories and wide tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning lowers fuel economy so use the fan.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Seek out low sulphur diesel (City diesel) or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics) supplies locally. Consider a conversion to LPG (liquid petroleum gas), which is half the price of petrol, generates almost as much power and emits much less CO₂.



TAKE NOTE: After downsizing to frugal models like the diesel Nissan Note, look at your driving style to make yet more savings

- Use 'accelerator sense'. Do you go straight from accelerator to the brake? You save fuel if you plan ahead and, rather than have to brake as you hit traffic, gently let the speed of the vehicle bring you to a halt as you join a queue.

- Reverse in when you park. When you start off again, the engine is cold and inefficient. If you can drive away smoothly without having to reverse, you save fuel and have better visibility.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and carry more weight than is necessary?

- If you are stuck in a jam then you are doing zero mpg – turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.



PRESSURE: Keep on top of tyre pressures to save fuel and wear and tear

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Spand Motors in Hythe is offering 10 per cent off MOTs when pre-booked

■ Simply Sofas & Beds in Strood is offering 10 per cent off sofas

■ Dartford Portable buildings in Dartford is offering up to 15 per cent off timber buildings. Finance options available on Crompton garages

■ Living Out, Log Cabins in Chestfield and Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off

■ County Garage in Heme Bay is offering a free protection pack worth up to £400. Free full tank of fuel, free Gard X Paint and interior protection, free front and rear mats

■ Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering free used boxes for all storage customers

■ Home Plus Furniture in Ashford/Chatham is offering £75 off when you spend over £500

■ FG Barnes in Maidstone is offering a free MOT for period of ownership when done with a service

■ Orchard Spot in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off a wedding package

■ KOS is offering Five Global knives set, scissors and block, £199.99, save £150 off RRP

■ Kentish Hardwood in Rainham is offering 10 per cent off selected hardwoods

■ KOS is offering Remington Titanium Washable Shaver, £49.99 inc p&p £50 off RRP

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(03) HONDA CIVIC COUPE 1.7 VTEC AUTO, 2 Dr, Met.Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 21500 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 11 **£4995**

(03) NISSAN MICRA 1.4 SE AUTO, 5 Dr, Black, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, 2 Owners, 37100 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 4 **£4495**

(51) TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 CDX AUTO, 5 Dr, Pale Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 45000 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 5 **£4295**

(52) NISSAN ALMERA 1.8 E AUTO, 3 Dr, Met.Blue, PAS, C/Locking, E/F/Windows, Alloys, 2 Owners, 30500 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 7 - PRIVATE CUSTOMER SALE **£3495**

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A fare deal for tourists

I read with interest Ed Hill's report about the renewed Eurostar service between Ashford and Brussels.

We live in Littlebourne, near Canterbury, but have family and many friends in Brussels, where I spent much of my life.

I made use of this service several times a year until it was discontinued 15 months ago, as did friends and family in Belgium who came to visit us here.

They all enjoyed discovering this lovely part of Kent. However, for 15 months, with no Eurostar stopping in Ashford, we have had no visitors.

I, my friends and family plan to make use of the newly-restored link, but hope we shall be able to purchase the £59 return tickets. This is not easy to obtain on the very busy 16.59 service out of Brussels. You mention that "tourism is the best way to make international train routes successful", but there are few tourists who can either afford or wish to pay high fares.

Once the quota of seats at £59 is gone, the price becomes excessive.

Whereas travellers from St Pancras have a choice of 11 trains a day to Brussels; and those from Ebbsfleet a choice of four trains, Ashford International has only one.

If the new limited service is to be made a success, Eurostar will have to promote the Ashford-Brussels link more actively, improve the online booking system and make sure cheap return fares are available to tourists.

DH Jones, Littlebourne

Being taken for a ride

I was concerned by your story about the Government not fully funding local councils' costs over bus passes (High cost of 'free' buses, KOS Media, last week).

This must be made worse by the fact that twice last year Arriva increased most of its fares on the spurious grounds of the rise in

Early start but no connection

Ed Hill's report, Brussels route has to prove its worth (KOS Media, last week), makes no mention of the difficulties proving its worth will encounter.

I called the Eurostar service at Ashford International and found that the 6.27am service to which you refer is the sole Eurostar that goes from there.

I then phoned Southeastern Trains to find what connection was available to reach Ashford on time and found there

was none. In other words, no provision has been made for rail passengers who wish to catch the only Eurostar available from Ashford. It may well be that the business travellers for whom the service is primarily intended will put the taxi fare to Ashford on expenses, but for ordinary passengers the service is going to be of no use, so the hope of Passenger Focus that it will prove viable seems forlorn.

Alexander Magnus, Tunbridge Wells

oil prices. This must surely increase the subsidy. My fare, for instance, though it only went up once, rose 25 per cent. The general rate of inflation peaked at five per cent.

Oil prices have since fallen by two thirds yet Arriva hasn't reduced its fares accordingly. Even some of the energy companies are now reducing their gas and electric tariffs, so why not the bus companies?

Marc Hurstfield, Northfleet

Betrayal of Kidd legacy

Your report on the Kidd legacy sale in Dartford was based on misinformation (KOS Media, last week).

The sale of the access from Lowfield Street into Central Park was not a mistake made in good faith, as claimed, but a deliberate act as both parties had Colonel Kidd's Deed of Gift and were fully aware (before the sale) of the phrase "for use in perpetuity as a public

recreation ground and for no other purpose whatsoever". This phrase is to be removed altogether in the new proposals for administering the charity, because the sold land now forms part of Tesco's superstore, with flats above rising to 29 metres.

The replacement for the sold land is part of Central Park. This sale is self-dealing and illegal. The replacement accessway is via the existing access from Cranford Road and not from Lowfield Street at all.

The latest proposals do not include a promenade in Lowfield Street, as reported. However, a further 1.1 acres of legacy land is to be granted to the developers for a promenade, cycle path, access route, water features, paving etc, all of which should be within the boundary of the site purchased by Tesco, not in Central Park. The aim from the start has not been to protect the interests of the Kidd legacy, but to sell or give away the land for development – a truly shameful betrayal.

LP Ryan, Dartford

An insult to the fallen

I am an old man. I fought in the last war against the Nazis. I am ashamed to hear that Kent people have voted in a representative of the evil BNP whose ideas many fought and died to halt.

Alfred Cradleigh, Maidstone

BNP's mission creep

Amazing – and very sad. Three letters last week sympathetic to the creepy BNP.

And on another page a BNP bigwig explaining how he veered from old Labour to the BNP (following the route of the lovely Oswald Mosley, fascist leader in pre-war Britain).

He then gives doubtful answers to questions about the Holocaust. It beggars belief.

The whole, raison d'être (I hope I do not offend BNP sensibilities by using a foreign expression) of the BNP is hatred – of immigrants, ethnic differences, Europe (the same old boring catalogue of scapegoats).

What a political platform for 2009.

Hugh Lattice, Faversham

Get off my barge pole

I believe that anyone who touches the BNP, even with a 20ft barge pole, is a dysfunctional idiot.

Ruby Ching, Boughton-under-Blean

When PCs are too PC

Mr Duff, in his somewhat scary letter, chooses to miss the point so he can have a self-congratulatory, self-serving tirade and accuse me, in a roundabout way, of being homophobic. Well, he's entitled to his opinion: it's almost a free country. To repeat the blinking

Letters continued on page 68

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

ATKINS

Paul and Amy of Canterbury proudly announce the birth of their son, Dylan Richard Algy Atkins, on 20th February 2009 at 7.15pm.

BLAND

Michael and Shelley of Whitstable would to announce the surprise early birth of their beautiful daughter Elizabeth Josephine Bland at 7.25am on 22nd February 2009. Granddaughter to two wonderful Grandmothers and one very proud Grandfather.

CALLADINE

Melissa Calladine of Dover celebrated the birth of her daughter Keira Louise on 21st February 2009

CASSELL

Andrew and Sharon of Faversham are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, George Ronald, on 20th February 2009. A new baby brother for Alfred.

CLAY

Paul and Karen of Woolage Village are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Scarlett Susan Clay, on 25th January 2009.

CRAMPTON

Daniel and Kristina Crampton of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Davey Jay Crampton on 17th February 2009. A brother to Sonny and Charlie.

DADD

Ellie-May Julie Betty born on 22nd February 2009, weighing 7lbs 8oz. Daughter to Scott and Sonia in Dover. Mum and Daddys special little angel.

DOYLE

Daniel Liam born on 21st February 2009, weighing 8lbs.2oz. Precious son to Lina and Eamonn in Dover. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

DUNNING

Kate and Andy of Whitstable are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Cameron Joe Dunning, on 4th February 2009.

GROOMBIDGE

Craig Peter Freddie born on 18th February 2009, weighing 7lbs 6oz. Son to Louise and Craig in Dover. Precious little brother to Katie, Adam, and Tia.

HARRINGTON

Matt and Simone are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Ella Madeleine, a sister for Rosie. Ella was born on Valentines Day 2009 at Pembury Hospital and weighed 8lb 1oz

HOBSON

Warren and Nicola are proud to announce the birth of baby Natasha born on the 19th February at The Queen Elizabeth Margate. A big thank you to all the staff

JACKSON

Rio Junior Jackson, born on 26th January 2009 to Damian Jackson and Katie Allen.

KIRBY

Anne Benbow and Chris Kirby celebrate the birth of their son Dylan John on 18th February 2009.

LA FRANCESCA

Rob and Paula La Francesca, of Herne Bay, would like to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Lucia, Violet (named after our lovely nanna Bayliss). Born 25th February, to our delight.

LYNG

Imogen Elizabeth born on 22nd February 2009, weighing 7lbs 7oz. Daughter to Tracy and Nicholas in Dover. Little sister for Conor. Thank-you to Jackie and Amanda, Lesley and Leanne at Buckland Hospital for your support and kindness.

McMILLAN

Mason James born on 15th February 2009, weighing 6lbs 4oz. Son to Gavin and Rebecca. Precious brother to Jake, Harrison and Lilly.

NAM

Joshua Jun Hin Nam born on 1st February 2009, weighing 7lb. Son to Ting and Kathleen Nam and brother to Tobias of Muswell Hill, London.

NICHOLLS

Adam and Kate would like to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Maddie Marie born on 10th February 2009

NOLAN

Eden-Mae, born on 25th January 2009 weighing 7lbs 6ozs. Daughter to Paul and Kerry in Margate.

ROBINSON

Martin and Sally of Deal celebrate the birth of their daughter Layla Jade on 23rd February 2009.

RUSSELL

Tristan Claudine and Evelyn are proud to announce the arrival of George Frank Russell on 17th February 2009.

RYDER

Jessica Louise Ryder born on 20th February 2009, weighing 7lb 14oz. Daughter to Ross and Holly Ryder, sister to Kacey in Maidstone.

SMITH

Jenna Louise Rose born on 6th February 2009, weighing 7lbs 8ozs. Daughter to Krystal and Timothy in Dover.

SMITH

Steve and Elouise are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Cara Elouise on 14th February 2009 at Pembury Hospital and she weighed 8lb 2oz.

SORRELL

Jamie and Samantha are pleased to announce the arrival of their son Joshua James Sorrell, born on 27th February 2009 weighing 7lbs 7oz.

TAHOON

Leigh-Anne Riordan and Richard Tahoon of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Liam Richard Tahoon on 14th February 2009.

THOMPSON

Joanne and Neil of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Henry Arthur James, born on 17th February 2009 at QEQM.

WARNER

Owen Francis Warner born on 21st February 2009, weighing 8lbs 12oz. Son to Mark and Chloe and baby brother to Jessica.

WEST

Luke Ryan born to proud parents Jamie and Emma on 20th February 2009 at Pembury Hospital weighing 8lb 5oz, a brother for Megan.

WILLIAMS

Garry and Elizabeth of Canterbury are thrilled to announce the birth of their second son, Ivan Fred, on 16th February 2009. A new baby brother for Ewan.

DEATHS

APPS

Leslie William Apps of Aylesford passed away peacefully after a short illness on 2nd March 2009. The funeral will take place at Aylesford Church on Wednesday 11th March at 1.30. Flowers to A H Apps of Chatham or donations, if desired, to the church fund.

BARCLAY

NEE WICKENS

Elsie May passed away on 28th February 2009 aged 95. Church service to be held at Grace Church Grove Road Maidstone on 11th March at 12noon. Followed by interment at Maidstone Cemetery. Will be sadly missed by all.

CHUM

Edna May Chum passed away on 24th February 2009, aged 85. Died peacefully after a short illness. Much loved mother and grandmother.

DANTON

Terry aged 65 years died peacefully on 25th January. Loving husband of Rosemary and father to Jodie, Jeffery and Gary. Brother to Eileen and Kathleen, father-in-law to Iain, Emma and Joanne. Grandad to Anna, Robyn, Isabel, Shane and Ryan. Will be sadly missed. Funeral to take place at Barham on 9th March at 10:00 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o Lyons Funeral Directors Canterbury.

JACKSILL MILLS

Loving dad to Raymond, Brian and Desmond.

JEFFERISS

Helen Jefferiss of Dover passed away on 24th February 2009. Now reunited with her beloved husband James. A much loved mum to Paul, Terry, Steve, Karen and Sam and a dearly loved Nan to her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The funeral was held on 5th March at Barham Crematorium.

MILLS

Jack Cyril Mills of Stalisfield passed away peacefully on 28th February 2009. A loving dad to Raymond and Brian and a much loved grandad and great grandad. The funeral will be held at St Marys Church Stalisfield on 12th March at 1pm. Flowers if desired or donations to MacMillan Nurses c/o Hogben and Partis of Faversham.

POOLEY

Terry Pooley of Dartford died suddenly on 21st February 2009. Funeral service at St John Fisher Church Bexley on Wednesday 18th March 2009 10.30 am. Please feel free to attend if you knew Terry.

PORTER

Doris Porter of Ramsgate/Broadstairs passed away peacefully on February 26th after a short illness aged 92.

PRIVETT

Laura Margaret Privett of Beckenham sadly passed away following a short illness on 3rd March 2009. Loving Mother of 5, grandmother of 4, great grandmother of 6, she will be sorely missed. Funeral to be held at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday 19th March 2009 at 14.15. Flowers are optional with donations being passed to Kidney Research and these can be sent to Albert Parr & Sons 0208 778 8414.

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obvious: all crime is hateful to those who suffer it. Therefore, in dealing with crime, Kent Police should be even-handed and treat each case on its own merit.

Every citizen of Kent is entitled to know that they will enjoy the full and equal protection of the law. The perception of people on the street is that this is not so. Many feel vulnerable, not only to the criminals, but to the running-scared, politically-motivated and politically-correct constabulary.

Why a person is attacked is not the issue; it could be for any number of reasons. The issue is that the police should deal with the crime promptly and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Children should not politicised to serve the interests of any section of society. Instead they should be taught good manners so they will become decent citizens to whom the idea of hurting anyone, for whatever reason, will be anathema.

Gerry O'Donnell, Ramsgate

Pride before the fall

PJE Pepper of Ramsgate (Letters, last week) claims that in the 1950s immigrants took all the jobs that should have been for the British and that now it has happened again. Excuse me?

In the '50s we had a lot of immigration purely because we couldn't get our own workers to do the jobs. For some reason after the war, a lot of British people thought themselves above doing menial work. The Government then allowed others in to do the jobs.

We experienced the same thing again recently with the Poles and Czechs, but they didn't take jobs from us – Britons turned down the jobs they took.

They may have offered to do the work for a lower wage, but they are like the British used to be. The British used to do anything to be in work. We were a proud people, but not any more. I have cleaned public toilets to keep my children fed and to be in work.

Most people seem to think they deserve something for nothing – how wrong can they be?

People have to earn their money, the same way as earning respect. If you are able-bodied you should take any job on offer. Earn respect and the money comes after. Then we will have more money to spend on important things and everyone will be happier.

Carole Russell, Ramsgate

Honoured to serve you

We would like to offer our thanks to those Canterbury voters who have elected us as governors of the new East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

It is a great honour and we look forward to being part of the exciting future of an organisation with which we have been associated in diverse ways for many years.

We undertake to watch, scrutinise and hold the trust to account, which of course is our statutory duty. However, we also pledge to support the trust using the skills and knowledge we bring with us. We represent the people who elected us and give an undertaking that in future we will make arrangements so the public can consult with us regarding any concerns they might have regarding the new trust.

We would like to pay tribute to the board, management and all staff of the trust who have worked tirelessly over the past five years to turn around a flawed organisation into one which is now a benchmark for good governance, strategic innovation and vision.

We look forward to the multitude of improvements which foundation trust status will bring to us all.

Stuart Field, Tricia Shephard, David Shortt, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury

Alcohol abuse inquiry

Further to your reports concerning the growing problem of alcohol abuse throughout the county.

People may be interested to know that the Health Select Committee is conducting an inquiry into alcohol and invites individuals and organisations to submit written evidence. The terms of the inquiry are as follows: the

scale of ill-health related to alcohol misuse; the consequences for the NHS; central government policy; the role of the NHS and other bodies including local government, the voluntary sector, police, the alcohol industry and those responsible for the advertising and promotion of alcohol; solutions including whether the drinking culture in England should change, and if so how. Written evidence should, if possible, be in Word or rich text format (not PDF format) and sent by email to healthcommem@parliament.uk.

The body of the email must include a contact name, telephone number and postal address. The email should also make clear if the submission is from an individual or an organisation. The deadline is Thursday, March 12.

Submissions should be in the form of a self-contained memorandum and should be no more than 3,000 words. Paragraphs should be numbered for ease of reference and the document must include an executive summary. Interested individuals and organisations are also encouraged to read The Drunkards of Ephraim (concerning alcohol abuse in the UK) published by, and available from Open Bible Ministries, PO Box 92, Belfast, BT5 7SA @ £1 (including p&p). Make your cheque/postal order payable to Open-Bible Ministries and enclose with your order.

Christopher Luke, Ukip, Tunbridge Wells

Labour isn't working

I have lived in Ramsgate all my working life and have been reading about job losses and redundancies in your paper. You know things are getting dire when members of your own family are being laid off, having been on short-time since Christmas.

There must be armies of young unemployed people in Thanet with no prospect of any type of work, despite the promises from the worst Labour government ever and our lacklustre MP for Thanet South. We have had so many empty promises.

Young men and women need work and money in their pockets and a need for getting up in the morning – a sense of purpose. Under Labour the poor have got poorer and the rich have got richer. Labour throughout

the UK is not working. MPs with their gold-plated pensions are an insult to our working class, getting £100,000 for second homes while other are losing theirs – disgraceful.

The House of Lords, which should be our saviour, is full of corruption. Some Lords have been in prison and still they hold their positions. This is a still a great country, thanks to its hard-working people, and Labour will be wiped out at the next election.

I will not predict the outcome, but things will not be the same. We send £40 million a day to the EU and this has to stop. This country needs every pound to be spent here.

We need to have control of our own monies. Ukip is the only party that will put Britain first.

Mass unemployment is bad news for all. Empty promises don't help and the politics in this country needs a new awakening.

The country needs to pull together in these uncertain times. We have done it before.

Trevor Shonk, Ukip chairman and parliamentary candidate, Thanet South

Mugging the motorist

I agree with Phil Granger's view of speed cameras (Letters, February 22).

If they are there just to make money, and I think they are, then they are 'metal muggers'. The motorist today is being ripped off left, right and centre and, with all these cameras, front and back also.

Another rip-off the motorist has to put up with is the parking charge racket. Why do we have to pay to park on roads that we already pay for in road tax, council tax, income tax, petrol tax etc?

Why do we have to pay in car parks to go shopping, bringing in much-needed business to our towns? Making shoppers pay to park is killing our towns. Why do they give out fines, sorry, I mean penalties, to shoppers who overstay their welcome by five or 10 minutes?

Shoppers need to be able to browse at their leisure, not be tied to a time. Medway Council says it gives out penalties to motorists who park dangerously, such as parking on double yellow lines, crossings, school entrances, etc.

Letters continued from page 68

The reason is to keep traffic moving, stop congestion and dangerous parking. So why book motorists who park in car parks? Is this just another way to extort money from us? Medway Council has a Smart car with a CCTV camera on the roof to catch motorists illegally parking.

It's worse than the parking wardens, who hide and wait for you to leave your vehicle. The CCTV car has special dispensation to park on double yellow lines to photograph motorists who park on double yellow lines.

If it is dangerous for the motorist, then it must be dangerous for them. Residential parking charges are another rip-off.

You have to pay to have your car on the highway, and then the council charges you again. The trouble with residential parking charges is that you get nothing for your money.

The Government stops councils putting up council tax by more than five per cent, so the council puts it up by 4.99 per cent, cuts services and raises parking charges. When are motorists going to do something about it?

Peter Nassan, Chatham

Cash cow cameras

That's original Mr Burgess (Letters, last week), they won't make money from cameras if we don't speed. Hadn't heard that one before. But I had heard of the speed guns recording a bicycle at 66mph, a parked car at 22mph and a brick wall at 44mph and the thousands of dodgy tickets that have had to be torn up.

I have heard many accounts, like the motorist prosecuted for going just a few mph over a 30 limit, although police could see his disabled wife was having a fit in the car and he was urgently trying to get to a lay-by.

Given a little power, British jobsworths have no mercy. I have seen traps, like the 40mph speed camera on the A13, which has a large 50mph sign at the end of its road markings – a deliberately-baited speed trap.

I have seen hundreds of miles of road with no speed indication whatsoever and the dangerous bunching at cameras, because motorists haven't a clue what the speed limit is.

It's a national scandal that so much money is being spent on the seven per cent of accidents officially caused by speeding. It's all about money Mr Burgess.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Flood of generosity

I would like to thank the customers of Folkestone and Dover Water who have given so generously to the WaterAid campaign – Give Water, Give Life, Give £2 a Month.

Since 2002, an amazing £45,000 has been donated and as a direct result WaterAid has been able to help 3,000 people gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Clean water is essential for life, but 884 million people in the world do not have it, and a further 2.5 billion are without adequate sanitation. 1.8 million children die every year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. That is 5,000 deaths a day.

Since 1981, WaterAid has already helped more than 12 million people in Africa and Asia gain access to water and sanitation. With your ongoing support they will be able to help even more. Once again, thank you.

Sue Past, WaterAid committee, Southern region

Stop the Gaza rockets

The fragile ceasefire in Gaza has been broken by both sides. The Israeli actions are understandable, even if one does not support them.

They are designed to stop ongoing rocket fire upon its civilians. The continued

Palestinian rocket fire cannot be so easily sympathised with. There is no element of defence in the Palestinian rocket fire. The aim of the rockets is to kill and maim, and to entice Israel to react. If anyone is interested in creating peace, the key is, as it always has been, stopping Palestinian violence.

Michelle Mosheliam, Givatayim, Israel

Convoy needs support

After an 18-month blockade and three weeks of shelling, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is now overwhelming.

I would like to make KOS Media readers aware of a historic British-led journey taking place at this time. A convoy of 110 vehicles driven by brave, self-financed members of the great British public is on its way overland from Westminster to Gaza, travelling 5,000 miles through countries including France, Spain, Morocco and Tunisia as part of the Viva Palestina aid convoy.

The convoy includes a fire engine, 30 ambulances, a boat and trucks filled with medicines, tools, blankets, medical equipment, clothes and toys for the children. Most of the vehicles will be left in Gaza and the volunteers will catch flights home. I am asking the generous people of Kent to donate where they can. If you would like to donate to the convoy which will provide for further aid purchases in Egypt, go to www.vivapalestina.org or if you would prefer to donate to the Gaza crisis appeal of Oxfam, British Red Cross, World Vision or Christian Aid go to www.Dec.org.uk.

Donna Anderson, By email

Transforming lives

The PACE Centre is a family charity transforming the lives of children with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy.

Like many, we were deeply moved by the very sad news regarding Ivan Cameron and wish to express our sympathy. Despite widely circulated initial reports in the media, it seems that Ivan didn't have cerebral palsy. He had a condition which some doctors refer to as Ohtahara syndrome, a very rare form of epilepsy, part of which mimics cerebral palsy.

We realise how distressing this type of news is for the thousands of parents in the UK who are bringing up children with cerebral palsy, which is why we felt it a positive move to send this letter to KOS Media.

Our point is this: for children with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy, life can be both fun and fulfilling.

Our early years parent-and-child sessions give children with motor disorders, as young as six months old, the very best start in life. Early input is vital for these children and families. Parent and child sessions provide three key elements: foundation skills for life and education; parental knowledge and understanding; and parental support and motivation.

Sadly, these receive no statutory funding as children often aren't statemented for their special educational needs until sometimes three or even four years of age. PACE has just established a First Steps fund to support these families. Visit www.thepace-centre.org/firststeps.html to watch a short film and find out more.

Simon Ekless, PACE Centre, Bucks

Coming to the boil

March brings to the boil the Meningitis Trust's Coffee Break fundraiser. For the whole month, people up and down the country are being encouraged to get friends, family or colleagues together to enjoy a coffee and slice of cake to raise funds for the charity.

Coffee Break is an annual event and one of the simplest to arrange. Just gather some people, have fun and charge a fee for every tea, coffee, biscuit, cake or sandwich consumed.

There's still time to get involved. Just call 0845 120 4530 for your free Coffee Break pack, which includes invitations, posters, balloons and a money box. As a thank you, all who raise more than £200 and send their money in by June 1 will automatically

be entered in our free prize draw to win £500 of Marks and Spencer vouchers.

Visit www.meningitis-trust.org/coffeebreak for more details.

Rebecca Jones, Meningitis Trust

Don't eat this mushroom

I just wanted to point out the the toadstool pictured in Sarah Marshall's article on the benefits of cooking with mushrooms, is a fly agaric and is poisonous! (Review magazine last week) It causes vomiting and hallucinations among other nasty side effects.

It would be worth pointing this out to your readers. You would not want someone to pick and eat one of the basis of having seen it in Kent on Sunday!

Liz Taylor

Organiser of Horsmonden Farmers' Market

Our shambolic masters

I would like to know what our lords and masters – the panjandrum at County Hall – have achieved during the last year for me and all council taxpayers to pay for their extravagant bonuses.

Nor the Iceland bank shambles, nor the unwatched TV station they persist in running; not the quarterly glossy shoved through everyone's door. So what have they done to keep our tax down?

Yes, they're giving a one per cent pay rise to those down the pecking order at County Hall. Rewards for excellence only go to the big cheeses. In any case, I always thought you got a job and were expected to do a good one. The way County Hall carries on makes me sick.

Kenneth McCord, Sittingbourne

Suitability for working

Do you know someone who is disabled and looking for a job? The chances are the answer

is yes as more than half of all disabled people of working age are not in work.

In this increasingly challenging economic climate, disabled people are struggling more than ever to find a job. Leonard Cheshire Disability is addressing with issue with a new online resource called Suitability.

We are launching a new online resource, www.lcdisability.org/suitability, to tackle this issue head-on. Suitability is an online job brokerage initiative for registered jobseekers, employers and mentors.

Disabled jobseekers can get personal career advice, connect with people with similar needs and goals, receive job alerts by SMS and access the Suitability CV builder.

Employers can post vacancies online for free, recruit and hire staff, reach other companies through the Suitability forum and sign up to virtual careers fairs. Find out more at www.lcdisability.org/suitability or call 08456 717173.

Jane Fletcher,

Leonard Cheshire Disability, London

Beauty only skin deep

Women who enter beauty pageants are advertising their narcissism. Contestants parading on stage at these events only do so out of self-centred vanity.

Symmetrical features and flawless skin are a superficial genetic trait. Beauty contests such as the Miss Galaxy pageant Catriona Robson from Ashford has been selected for (KOS, Media, February 28) seriously undermine the hard work of feminists who strive so diligently to achieve equality for womanhood.

Little talent is required to attain an attractive appearance as this is mainly hereditary good fortune. Miss Robson claims that "beauty should be judged not only on looks but on personality, intelligence and actions".

I don't believe that a person should be judged on looks at all, just on the content of their character.

After all, underneath that thin veneer of epidermis we all look the same.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

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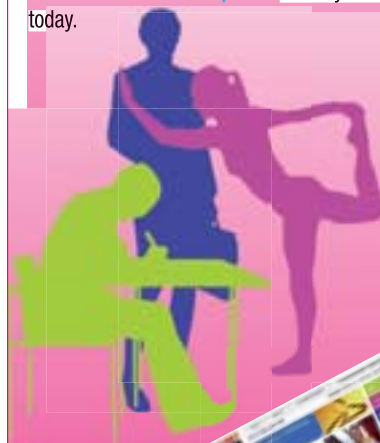


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KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Pupils do a Sir Alan

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

The University of Kent has hosted a version of The Apprentice for pupils.

Apprentice Day was an Aimhigher Kent and Medway event based on the BBC TV show presented by Sir Alan Sugar.

The event on Friday at the university's Canterbury campus, was aimed at Year 10 and 11 pupils.

Participating schools included The Canterbury High School; Wilmington Enterprise College; Spires Academy (Canterbury); Holmesdale Technology College (Snodland); and St Georges Church of England Foundation School (Broadstairs).

Pupils attended business and marketing taster sessions.



HIRED OR FIRED?: Sir Alan Sugar

They were then be assigned to mixed groups where they were asked to design an aid for new students as they start university.

The team that came up with the best idea, pitch and presentation won the day.

Simon Westerman, director of commercial services at the university, judged the event, and said: "We want to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise, and the university provides the ideal environment in which to test their acquired business and marketing skills."

"There is no substitute to learning by doing and Apprentice Day provides a real opportunity to gain personal experience of how business works."

Stacey Young, the Aimhigher liaison officer at the university's Partnership Development Office, added: "Apprentice Day is a fantastic opportunity for Kent school pupils to work together, learn new skills and be creative."

"It is also a great opportunity for them to learn more about the range of business-orientated subjects the university has to offer."

Digging in at Academy

A SOD-cutting ceremony was held at New Line Learning Academy to mark the start of a major building project.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter climbed aboard a digger to help dig the first hole at the Maidstone academy, which is being completely transformed as part of the national Building Schools for the Future scheme.

Students will be able to enjoy new state-of-the-art facilities by 2010, as well as those attending the nearby Cornwallis Academy.

Also in attendance at the sod-cutting ceremony were KCC cabinet member for operations, resources and skills Cllr Mark Dance and Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Denise Joy.

Teachers, pupils, school governors and other invited guests enjoyed the festivities too.



CEREMONY: (l-r) Students Ella Harvey, Sean Boelitz and Andrew Davies (on digger) with headteacher Guy Hewett

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Visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk for more details of the position and application details, or contact Nina Dietrich on 01227 862787 or nina.dietrich@visitkent.co.uk

CHEF

Required at small restaurant in Dover. Experience preferred.

For more information please call Ian on **01304 209444** or email: groombridge77@o2.co.uk

SUPPORT STAFF AND TEAM LEADERS

Required for our autism specific service in Folkestone. NVQ qualification preferred although not essential.

Please call Tom on 01303 251618/01303 259561 for more details. Salary £6 + per hour.

Music/Play Worker - Disability Specialist

Pie Factory Music are seeking a creative and energetic individual with enthusiasm for a range of musical styles to work across East Kent with disabled children and young people, involving them in creating music. You will plan and deliver a wide range of music making sessions, courses and play activities for children with a range of abilities. This will include the use of specialist sound beam equipment (training provided).

You will be qualified to NVQ3 in music/youth/play work or equivalent. Previous experience with disabled children preferred.

You will need to be mobile and able to deliver sessions across East Kent. Skills in non-verbal communications systems, e.g. BSL, Makaton, PECS, etc., would be an advantage.

For more information and an application pack, please call Steve Kreeger on **01843 596777** or e-mail steve@piefactorymusic.com. To find out more about Pie Factory Music, visit www.piefactorymusic.com

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Deal Town Council

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TWO VACANCIES

Deputy Premises Officer

20 hours per week worked flexibly. Salary £6.53 per hour

To appoint a Deputy Premises Officer to assist in an expanding area of work within the council. Embracing, booking and invoicing plus subsequent attendance at events, along with caretaking and the overseeing of the council's allotments. The post holder will need to be flexible as much of the work takes place in the evenings and at weekends. The successful candidate needs to be physically fit and should ideally have some relevant experience as well as being conversant with Microsoft IT packages. The council seeks to be a quality employer but parts of the Town Hall are difficult to access for the disabled.

Closing date for applications:

12 noon Friday 20 March 2009 – Interviews will be on the morning of Friday 27 March 2009

Deal Saturday Market Officer

Part Time post – 10 hours per week. Salary £7.34 per hour

(This involves unsocial hour working)

To appoint a Market Officer who will oversee an increasingly busy market and has to work mostly on their own initiative to agreed protocols. A flexible approach to working hours is needed as well as a patient attitude to stallholders and public. Apart from the actual market day, during the week the duties require the officer to be available via a mobile phone to deal with enquiries and stallholder bookings. Record keeping is an important part of the duties. The post holder will need to be physically fit and ideally conversant with Microsoft IT packages.

Closing date for applications:

12 noon Friday 27 March 2009 – Interviews will be on Friday 3 April 2009

For an application pack contact:

Deal Town Council, Deal Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6BB
Tel: 01304 361999 or Email: dealtowncouncil@deal.gov.uk



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We are now recruiting for **HEALTHCARE ASSISTANTS & REGISTERED NURSES**

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If you are over 18 years of age and are eligible to undertake paid work in the UK
Call Julie Epsley on: 01732 523442
or email: info@bayada.co.uk

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North Street, Sutton Valence,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HL
www.svs.org.uk



Experienced Groundsperson

circa £13 750 pa

An experienced Groundsperson is required from April. Candidates should hold a full driving licence and some experience of tractor work would be an advantage. The ideal candidate for this post will be someone who really enjoys working outdoors, is able to work within a team or unsupervised and is very self motivated.

Further details may be requested from Stuart Harris, Estates Bursar: telephone 01622 845254 or e-mail: harrisst@svs.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 16th March, 2009.



Sutton Valence School
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Community Drug Workers

£21,244 – £27,492 + ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,095
EAST/WEST KENT AND MEDWAY

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable, along with a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

For further information and an application form email recruitment@kca.org.uk or write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Alternatively, call 01795 590635. Please quote ref: 553

Closing date: 13 March 2009.

Interview date: 1 April 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



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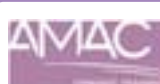
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info@davinashoes.co.uk

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Elaine
01795 431500



Amac Dynamic Training offers training and career development to fitness professionals. Courses on offer include NVQs, bespoke in-house training, fitness professional courses ranging from levels 1-3. Amac is committed to Equality and Diversity.

14-19 Programme Manager

(Full time up to £31k pa) Canterbury
The successful candidate will work closely with the management team, tutors and operational staff to ensure the design, development, management and implementation of programmes is of a consistently high standard. You would be highly skilled in developing and maintaining effective relationships with key partners and stakeholders. We are looking for inspirational and committed individual, who can show excellent interpersonal, communication and influencing skills. Applications are welcome from experienced candidates, and will hold a DTLS teaching qualification (Certificate in Education or equivalent), together with an interest in sports and fitness and curriculum development for the 14-19 age range.

How to Apply

Please contact Amac for an application form, full job description, candidate requirements, and details of salary and benefits for position. Contact info@amactraining.co.uk or 01227 831 840. Alternatively e-mail your C.V. with a covering letter, or post it to: Amac, 2 Denne Hill Business Centre, Womenswold, Canterbury, CT4 6HD
Closing Date: 25 March 2009 Interview Date: 31 March 2009

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HGV Class 2 Driver for an immediate start.
Lorry mounted crane licence is essential.

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Good rates of pay + benefits

To Apply: Phone Suzy in Human Resources on
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CV or request an application form.

Closing date for application **23rd March 2009**

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at Various Holiday Parks within the Kent Area

Please Call **Chris** on **01277 355088**
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Immediate Start available

**PROJECT
COORDINATOR**

for Market Research Company (Healthcare)
Based outskirts of Sittingbourne.

Excellent Telephone, Organisational,
Admin and Communication Skills Essential.
Training will be given, no healthcare experience necessary.
Salary £15,000 - £17,000

Apply by email to info@medicysltd.co.uk
Or write to:

**Medicys Limited, Broad Oak Enterprise Centre,
Broad Oak Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8AQ**

screen SOUTH

The Regional Screen Agency for the South East of England has opportunities at both its offices

Headquarters – Folkestone
EDUCATION & YOUTH PROJECTS
CO-ORDINATOR PART TIME
£18,000 - £22,000 Pro Rata Depending on experience
Up to 28 hours per week Fixed Term Contract
A Media Box Supported Role
Closing date: 26 March 2009 Interviews will be held on: 06 April 2009

Film Commission – Pinewood Studios
FILM COMMISSION ASSISTANT
£14,000 - £16,000 Depending on experience
Closing date: 01 April 2009 Interviews will be held on: 09 April 2009
For job specification or further information please see our website
www.screensouth.org or contact Vanessa Cook

Please send current CV and letter of motivation including where you saw the ad to
vanessa.cook@screensouth.org or
Screen South, The Wedge, 75 – 81 Tontine Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1JR
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Career Opportunities

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Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Learning Support – Essential Skills

ref: 08/147

18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year term time, salary starting at
£16,914 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the
Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the
above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above post is Monday 16th March 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



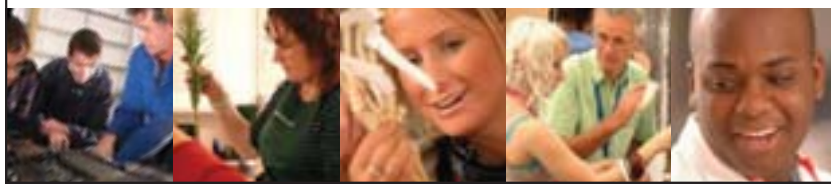
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Lines open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am to 5pm. As at September 2008, calls to 0845 numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 4p a minute with a 7p call set-up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you call from abroad. Our textphone / typetalk numbers are for people who cannot speak or hear clearly. If you don't have a textphone / typetalk, you could check if your local library or citizens advice bureau has one. Textphones / typetalk don't receive text messages from mobile phones.

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**



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Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
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 email: enquiries@gsg.org.uk

**TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS****Maternity Cover – September 2009**

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Mathematics to join a highly successful Faculty. The person appointed would be required to teach up to A' Level. Maths is a very popular option with students and a high proportion go on to study a Mathematical course in Higher Education.

The person appointed will receive high quality mentoring and support. The Faculty enjoys excellent facilities and equipment.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004; this has led to a broad range of innovative practice across the school and we are looking to develop cross-curricular projects involving Mathematics.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of **Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher**, no later than

Wednesday 18th March 2009

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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**Band 6 Occupational Therapist**

Our Occupational Therapy Service has a vacancy for an enthusiastic Occupational Therapist. The post would require 32 hours a week during term time with an additional six negotiated days out of term time hours.

The Royal School for Deaf Children and Westgate College for Deaf People are a specialist residential school and college for children and young people who are d/Deaf, many have additional complex needs, including learning difficulties and behavioural difficulties. We also have a Community Living provision for adults with similar conditions.

For further information or informal visit (strongly recommended) please contact Stephen Webb, Occupational Therapist at:

Royal School for Deaf Children,
 Victoria Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 1NB.

Telephone: **01843 222454.**

Email: swebb@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk

Please telephone Diane Kirrage, HR
 Administrator on **01843 222429**

for an application form.

Closing Date: Friday 27th March 2009

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advertise
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section



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CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and wellbeing for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts, relocation packages available, occupational sickness benefit, car scheme for eligible staff, occupational health service and enhanced maternity pay.

PA to Head of Business Management Service ()

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum

Ref: 767-EMY880

Trinity House, Eureka Business Park, Ashford

An interesting and exciting post has arisen in Business Management Services supporting the Head of Service with secretarial and administrative duties. You will be a self motivated and able to work under your own initiative. You will have excellent secretarial/computer skills, and be able to provide general administrative support. You will need excellent communication skills dealing with NHS colleagues at all levels.

Trinity House is a modern friendly office, a short drive from the centre of Ashford. For an informal chat call Frances Outtrim on 07500108715.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Completed applications by: 5 March 2009.

Sites Project Manager x2 (*) ()

Band 8a: £37,106 - £44,527 per annum

Ref: 767-EMY897

Trinity House, Eureka Business Park, Ashford

Your focus will be on supporting the development of the Sites and Facilities Management services, providing expert project management to a range of Estates-focused activities. In particular, you will develop robust systems and processes for the acquisition of new premises, as well as link with Heads of Service and lead clinicians to devise Estate solutions to meet service and clinical needs. You will also act as a source of expert specialist and professional Sites & Building related advice.

Educated to Masters Degree or equivalent, you will have a proven track record as a senior manager with practical and substantial experience in Estates-related project management. You will also have detailed knowledge of relevant legal requirements, together with an understanding of NHS financial processes. In addition, you will be effective in managing change and directing multi-disciplinary teams.

For an informal chat call David Ambrose on 01223 667705.

Completed applications by: 12 March 2009.

Senior Physiotherapy Assistant (*) ()

Band 4: £17,316 - £20,818 per annum pro rata

Ref: 767-EKB894

Swale Local Office, Sittingbourne

Part Time: 15 Hours per week

Due to successful funding we are looking for a senior physiotherapy assistant to join our expanding service. The post will be based in the Swale Local Office, Sittingbourne, and cover the Swale locality. You will be part of an integrated multidisciplinary team including nurses, care managers, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists.

The successful candidate will provide support to the Senior Physiotherapist as well as holding their own case load. We offer strong support from both the multidisciplinary team and physiotherapy service.

Due to the nature of this role, it is essential that the post holder holds a full UK driving license and have access to a suitable vehicle for business purposes. An enhanced CRB check will also be completed.

For an informal discussion or visit please contact Tony West Senior Physiotherapist or Jackie Smith Team Manager on 01795 418760.

Closing date: 12 March 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

() Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

**Senior Practitioner** Ref: CA0463

Grade: PO2 £31,348 - £40,220 per annum

Hours: 37 per week

Location: Elaine Centre, Strood, Rochester

Medway is continuing to move forward the development of its Children Services. As part of our recent restructuring of Children's Services we have merged our Looked After Children's Team with our Leaving Care Team. We are committed to putting children at the centre of our service. We have an exciting vision for the future that will provide fully integrated services, which emphasise partnership and participation.

We're looking for talented and enthusiastic people to join our exciting journey. We can offer you an environment in which new ways of thinking and working are warmly welcomed together with the opportunity to be involved in unique and creative projects and extend your skills and interests to meet the needs of young people. You will take responsibility for a small caseload of complex cases. As well as setting the standard for colleagues to follow, you will supervise the work of other members of the team and actively coach, mentor and develop them. You can expect excellent training, career opportunities, final salary pension, generous annual leave, flexible working hours and much more.

We would preferably like you to have

- a post qualifying award
- a practice teacher/assessor award
- a proven track record of developing and maintaining high standards of social work practice through supervision

For more information please call Jo Kavanagh (Team Manager) on 01634 335652 or by email joanne.kavanagh@medway.gov.uk

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

All applicants must be registered, or in the process of registering with GSCC.

Closing date: 13 March 2009.

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk

or phone **01634 333333** Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm

or **01634 332843** 24-hour answerphone.

Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

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Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Construction Craft

08/12

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Section Manager Dental Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

06/110

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Acting Section Manager NVQ's and Professional Studies, Dental, Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

09/02

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum. Fixed Term post ending 31 July 2009

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation

09/04

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation

09/04

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students)

07/30

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Supply Lecturer Community Development

S/CD

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Advanced Practitioner

02/128

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Business Publicity Officer

09/09

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum. One year fixed term post

Trainer Demonstrator Sculpture/3-D Design Art & Design

09/08

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £18,963 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Preparation for Life & Work

06/179

37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

Temporary Enrolment Records Assistants

TERA (1-4)

4 posts at 18.5 hrs per week, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum.

Temporary posts starting 01 June 09 and ending 31st October 09

Administrator - Central Administration

07/48

27 hrs per week, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

Learning Resources Assistant – Book Shelves

LRCA6

10 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time, salary £13,711 pro rata per annum (fixed point)

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 16th March 2009 at 12 noon



CLICK

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



CALL

01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and wellbeing for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts, relocation packages, occupational sickness benefit, car scheme for eligible staff, occupational health service, and enhanced maternity pay.

Health Promotion Practitioner - Stop Smoking x2 (*) (☎)

Ref: 767-ECL907

Band 5: £20,225 - £26,123 per annum

Whitfield Court/East Kent Hospitals University Trust

Health Promotion Specialist - Stop Smoking (*) (☎)

Ref: 767-ECL908

Band 6: £24,103 - £32,653 per annum

Whitfield Court/East Kent Hospitals University Trust

Would you like to help people to stop smoking?

Are you interested in improving peoples' health? If you are, then we may have the right job for you. The Stop Smoking Service provides a free service to all smokers who want to stop, in locations across Eastern and Coastal Kent.

A new service for smokers is being set up within the East Kent Hospitals University Trust and the successful applicants would be part of an exciting initiative to make a real difference to people's health at a time in their lives when they most need support to quit smoking.

The posts will cover each hospital in the Trust and will be managed and supported within an experienced and expert team, with an office base at Whitfield Court, Dover. You should have the flexibility to work at each venue as necessary.

You will join a lively and committed Stop Smoking Team which carries the responsibility for developing and delivering services, including individual one-to-one and group sessions. You will join the service at a time of expansion and challenge in order to contribute to the achievement of local and national stop smoking targets.

Excellent communication skills and an understanding of motivational interviewing techniques and/or counselling skills are essential. Relevant work experience may include: general nursing, health visiting and midwifery, smoking cessation, counselling, addiction services or experience involving substantial interpersonal and communication skills. An understanding of the issues around stopping smoking will be an advantage but is not essential, as training will be given. Experience of working with minority groups will be an advantage. You will be expected to work flexibly and on your own initiative, within an agreed framework, as well as being part of a team. The post will involve extensive travel: travel expenses incurred in the course of your duties will be reimbursed.

For an informal discussion please contact Stop Smoking Service Lead - Jane Blinston-Jones: 01304 828713 - Office or 07825 732028 - Work Mobile.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

(☎) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit

www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk

Closing date: 19 March 2009.

We are an equal opportunities employer
Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults



To advertise in this section



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ARCHERS COURT MATHS & COMPUTING COLLEGE

Whitfield, Dover, Kent. CT16 2EG
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e-mail: office@archers-court.kent.sch.uk
Web site: www.archers-court.kent.sch.uk



Required for September

MUSIC GRADUATE

to achieve qualified teacher status via the one year Graduate Teacher Programme

Annual salary £19,058

Archers Court is a Specialist 11 – 18 College for Maths and ICT OFSTED judged us to be GOOD in all categories, making us the highest rated non selective school in the Dover area.

This is an exciting opportunity for a graduate who would like to be trained and qualify as a teacher.

An application pack is available from the school.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 13 March 2009

Interviews will be held week commencing Monday, 16 March 2009



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Administration, Secretarial, PA

Project Coordinator**Sittingbourne**

Salary: £15,000 to £17,000 pa
Excellent Telephone, Organisational, Admin and Communication Skills Essential. Training will be given, no healthcare experience necessary. Medics Limited, Broad Oak Enterprise Centre, Broad Oak Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8AQ
To apply/more information: Medics Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@medicystd.co.uk

PA to CHIEF EXECUTIVE**Ashford**

Salary: Negotiable
The GSE Group are one of the South East's leading construction companies and our diverse business interests include Groundworks, Design & Build, Haulage, Development and Plant Hire. An extremely organised and self motivated individual is required to take up the role of PA to the Chief Executive. The successful candidate will undertake a wide range of duties and responsibilities, covering all PA, secretarial and administrative functions, which will include diary management and organising overseas and UK travel. Candidates must be versatile, able to multi task, work under pressure and to tight deadlines and demonstrate the ability to deal with complex and confidential issues. Excellent IT skills and a proven record of PA experience are essential. Previous experience in a similar role would be beneficial. Core hours of work are 8.30 to 5.30 Monday to Friday. Applications should include a full CV and be sent to Mrs. S. Barlow, HR Manager, GSE Group, Joshua Harris, Crowbridge Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0GR or sue.barlow@gse-group.com. Closing date 11 March 2009. No Agencies please.

To apply/more information: Sue Barlow
GSE Group
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 506337
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

Academy Receptionist**Canterbury**

Salary: £12,775 - £13,959
Closing Date: Friday 13 March 2009 at Noon
8.30 - 4.30 Mon - Fri All Year Round Following internal promotion we are seeking to appoint an Academy Receptionist to join our administration team. You will be energetic, enthusiastic and must feel comfortable working with young people. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and

communication skills. Further details and application forms are available on our website www.spireacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wington at m.wington@spireacademy.co.uk
170392 ext 227. Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.
To apply/more information: Spire Academy
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wington@spireacademy.com

Finding staff
24-7
JobsforKent.co.uk

To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Administrator - Central Administration**Canterbury**

Salary: £15,085 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 March at 12 Noon
27 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/48
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Learning Resources Assistant - Book Shelves**Canterbury**

Salary: £13,711 pro rata pa

Closing Date: Monday 16 March at 12 Noon
10 hours per week, 38 weeks term time Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: LRCA6
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Experienced Groundsperson**Maidstone**

Salary: circa £13,750 pa
Closing Date: 16th March 2009
An experienced Groundsperson is required from April. Candidates should hold a full driving licence and some experience of tractor work would be an advantage. The ideal candidate for this post will be someone who really enjoys working outdoors, is able to work within a team or unsupervised and is very self motivated. Further details may be requested from Stuart Harris, Estates Bursar: telephone 01622 845254 or e-mail: harrisst@svs.org.uk Closing date for applications: 16th March, 2009.
To apply/more information: Stuart Harris
Sutton Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 845254
Email harrisst@svs.org.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Chief**Dover**

Salary: TBA
Required at small restaurant in Dover Experience preferred For more information. Please call Ian On 01304 209444

To apply/more information: Ian, Arlington Restaurant (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 209444
Email grommbridge77@o2.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Traffic Management Operative**Dartford**

Salary: 7-8 Per Hour
Road Traffic Management Operative required for our client based in and around the Kent area, the successful candidate will be required to work shifts which include days and nights. Applicants to this job must hold one of the following qualifications: 12A/B or 12D or New Road and Street Work Tickets. Duties will include all aspects of traffic management including lane closures on motorways, laying out cones and signs. Days worked can be Mon-Fri and Weekend work. Successful candidates are guaranteed a minimum of 10 hours paid per each working shift. For the right candidate this job can become permanent.
To apply/more information: Carl Davis
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664 999
Email maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Subject Lead Learner - Mathematics (We employ two subject Lead Learners in our core subjects)**Aylesford**

Salary: TLR 2B
Closing Date: 17/03/2009
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:-
• A brand new school.
• Outstanding new facilities in all areas.
• NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none.
• A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways.
• Your own laptop.
• A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another.
• Is focussed on developing their career further. • Is able to teach Technology at all key stages. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of Maths**Aylesford**

Salary: MPS
Closing Date: 17/03/2009
Aylesford School - Sports College Roll 910 11 – 18 Mixed Foundation Secondary School Teacher of Mathematics Main Scale Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:-
• A brand new school.
• Outstanding new facilities in all areas.
• NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none.
• A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways.

professional pathways. • Your own laptop. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:-
• Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. • Is able to teach Mathematics at all key stages. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 ext 204 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of Science**Aylesford**

Salary: MPS
Closing Date: 17/03/2009
Aylesford School - Sports College Roll 910 11 – 18 Mixed Foundation Secondary School Teacher of Science Main Scale Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:-
• A brand new school.
• Outstanding new facilities in all areas.
• NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none.
• A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:-
• Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. • Is able to teach Science at all key stages. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Subject Lead Learner – English**Aylesford**

Salary: TLR 2B (£4037)
Closing Date: 17/03/2009
We employ two Subject Lead Learners in our core subjects. Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:-
• A brand new school.
• Outstanding new facilities in all areas.
• NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none.
• A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:-
• Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
Closing date: 6th March 2009
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

keen to join our team at this exciting time in the development of our school please contact Miss Jill McKenna, on 01622-717341 ext 204. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341 x 204
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of Key Stage 3 Theme Based Learning (Maternity Cover Required from March 2009)**Aylesford**

Salary: Main Scale
Closing Date: 6th March 2009
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. Based on the needs of our learners and the fundamental belief in the development of Personalised Learning Pathways for all students we have created an innovative curriculum that embraces Theme Based Learning (TBL) as a vehicle to develop the essential Personal Learning and Thinking Skills. TBL involves the organisation of Humanities subjects' into periods of time in which a common context unites the entire learning taking place. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:-
• A brand new school.
• Outstanding new facilities in all areas.
• NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none.
• A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop for the duration of your appointment. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:-
• Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
Closing date: 6th March 2009
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk



Jobs by Email

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Two Deputy Headteacher Posts

Aylesford

Salary: £17 - £21

Closing Date: 13th March 2009

Two Deputy Headteacher Posts

Deputy Headteacher –

Curriculum and Learning Deputy

Headteacher – Inclusion and

Personnel L17 – £21 Aylesford

School – Sports College. We

have a strong community ethos

where we put the learner at the

heart of everything we do. At

Aylesford School – Sports

College we can offer you:-

• A school with a clear vision.

• Outstanding new facilities in

all areas. • A highly regarded

CPD programme with personal

professional pathways. • Your

own laptop. • A buzzing and

vibrant staff who are friendly

and keen to help one another.

• A forward looking curriculum

with individualised pathways for

students. We are looking for a

committed professional who:-

• Can motivate students

through the curriculum. • Has

the desire and is able to make

the difference. • Is focussed on

developing their career further.

• Is consistently a good or

better teacher. • Can lead a

team of good staff. • Can make

a substantial contribution to the

School's future development.

For an application pack please

contact Miss Jill McKenna on

01622 714304 or email your

request to jill.mckenna@

aylesford.kent.sch.uk Closing

date is: Friday 13th March 2009

at 3pm. Short-listing will take

place on Monday 16th March

2009 Interviews will be held

Tuesday 24th March 2009

Second day for selected

candidates will be Wednesday

25th March 2009

To apply/more information:

Jill McKenna

Aylesford School -

Sports College

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tel: 01622 714304

Email jill.mckenna@

aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Learning Support - Essential Skills

Isle of Sheppey

Salary: £16,914 pro rata pa

Closing Date: Monday 16

March at 12 Noon

18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks

per year. Sheppey College is a

satellite of Canterbury College

and has been open since 1996.

We offer a variety of courses in a

modern and friendly learning

environment and enjoy excellent

rates of success. Staff benefits

include: • Pensions and Life

Assurance Scheme • Proximity to

Main Bus/Train stations • Close

to City Centre • Sports Hall and

Gym • Generous Holiday

Allowance • Staff Discount

Scheme For an application pack

to apply, please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or

call the Human Resources

Office on 01227 811282 (24

answer phone) quoting the

post reference.

To apply/more information:

Canterbury College

Quoting Job Ref: 08/47

Tel: 01227 811282

Email

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Section Manager - Construction Craft

Canterbury

Salary: £33,858 pa

Closing Date: Monday 16

March at 12 Noon

Canterbury College is a Further

and Higher Education College in

the heart of Kent. Our goal is to

be one of the best FE Colleges

in England by 2010. We have

9,000 students across 300

courses and enjoy an enviable

reputation as a great place to

learn. Our brand new £50M

campus is also home to nearly

800 staff and we have some

great career opportunities which

Life Assurance Scheme

• Proximity to Main Bus & Train

stations • Close to City Centre

• Sports Hall and Gym

• Generous Holiday Allowance

• Staff Discount Scheme. For

an application pack, please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or

call the Human Resources

Office on 01227 811282 (24hr

answer phone) quoting the post

reference.

To apply/more information:

Canterbury College

Quoting Job Ref: 08/12

Tel: 01227 811282

Email

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Section Manager

Dental Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

Canterbury

Salary: £33,858 PA

Closing Date: Monday 16

March at 12 Noon

Canterbury College is a Further

and Higher Education College in

the heart of Kent. Our goal is to

be one of the best FE Colleges

in England by 2010. We have

9,000 students across 300

courses and enjoy an enviable

reputation as a great place to

learn. Our brand new £50M

campus is also home to nearly

800 staff and we have some

great career opportunities which

may be right for you. Staff

benefits include: • Pensions and

Life Assurance Scheme

• Proximity to Main Bus & Train

stations • Close to City Centre

• Sports Hall and Gym

• Generous Holiday Allowance

• Staff Discount Scheme For an

application pack, please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or

call the Human Resources Office

on 01227 811282 (24hr answer

phone) quoting the post

reference.

To apply/more information:

Canterbury College

Quoting Job Ref: 06/110

Tel: 01227 811282

Email

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Acting Section

Manager NVQs and Professional Studies, Dental, Nursing Social Care and Counselling

Canterbury

Salary: £33

Closing Date: Monday 16

March at 12 Noon

Fixed Term post ending July

2009 Canterbury College is a

Further and Higher Education

College in the heart of Kent.

Our goal is to be one of the best

FE Colleges in England by 2010.

We have 9,000 students across

300 courses and enjoy an

enviable reputation as a great

place to learn. Our brand new

£50M campus is also home to

nearly 800 staff and we have

some great career opportunities

which may be right for you.

Staff benefits include:

• Pensions and Life Assurance

Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus

& Train stations • Close to City

Centre • Sports Hall and Gym

• Generous Holiday Allowance

• Staff Discount Scheme For an

application pack, please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or

call the Human Resources Office

on 01227 811282 (24hr answer

phone) quoting the post

reference.

To apply/more information:

Canterbury College

Quoting Job Ref: 09/02

Tel: 01227 811282

Email

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Studies

Canterbury

Salary: £33,858 PA

Closing Date: Monday 16

March at 12 Noon

Temporary post to cover

maternity leave not to exceed

12 months. Canterbury College

is a Further and Higher

Education College in the heart of

Kent. Our goal is to be one of the

best FE Colleges in England by

2010. We have 9,000

students across 300 courses

and enjoy an enviable reputation

as a great place to learn. Our

brand new £50M campus is

also home to nearly 800 staff

and we have some great career

opportunities which may be

right for you. Staff benefits

include: • Pensions and Life

Assurance Scheme • Proximity to

Main Bus & Train stations

• Close to City Centre • Sports

Hall and Gym • Generous

Holiday Allowance • Staff

Discount Scheme For an

application pack, please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or

call the Human Resources Office

on 01227 811282 (24hr answer

phone) quoting the post

reference.

To apply/more information:

Canterbury College

Quoting Job Ref: 09/04

Tel: 01227 811282

Email

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Vacancies filled fast online with

JobsforKent.co.uk

To advertise in this

section or online

01303 817040

Supply Lecturer

Community Development

Canterbury

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro

rata pa

Closing Date: Monday 16

March at 12 Noon

Various hours available

Canterbury College is a Further

and Higher Education College in

the heart of Kent. Our goal is to

be one of the best FE Colleges

in England by 2010. We have

9,000 students across 300

courses and enjoy an enviable

reputation as a great place to

learn. Our brand new £50M

campus is also home to nearly

800 staff and we have some

great career opportunities which

may be right for you. Staff

benefits include: • Pensions and

Life Assurance Scheme

• Proximity to Main Bus & Train

stations • Close to City Centre

• Sports Hall and Gym

• Generous Holiday Allowance

• Staff Discount Scheme For an



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Jobsfor

18.5 hours per week. One year fixed term post. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/09
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@obsforkent.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Service Advisor

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Experienced Service Advisor required for this busy role within our Harwoods Land Rover dealership in Tonbridge. Previous experience is a necessity and the successful applicant must have a high level of customer care and be able to work under pressure providing the best in customer satisfaction. For further information please contact Brian Jones on 01732 353637
To apply/more information: Harwoods of Edenbridge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 353637
Email: jsaunders@harwoods.uk.com

Qualified MOT Tester

Medway
Salary: TBA
Qualified MOT Tester At our Strood Branch. To apply please contact Tanya on: 01634 717 747 or Apply on line at www.mrlclutch.com
To apply/more information: Mr Clutch
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 717 747
Email: applications@obsforkent.co.uk

HGV Class 2 Drivers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 23rd March 2009
Join our successful business! Recruiting now at our Paddock Wood Site 48.0 hours per week Competitive Salary HGV Class 2 Driver for an immediate start. Lorry mounted crane licence is essential. Recovery (streetlifter) or transporter experience is desirable. Full training & uniform supplied. Good rates of pay + benefits To Apply: Please Suzy in Human Resources on 01202 744194 ext 226 Or email suzy@ctrent.co.uk to send in your CV or request an application form. Closing date for application 23rd March 2009.
To apply/more information: Charles Trent Vehicle Management
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01202 744194 ext 226
Email: suzy@ctrent.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Community Drug Workers

Faversham
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492

Closing Date: 13 March 2009
+ Essential car user allowance up to £1,095 Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service. Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable, along with a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area - nursing, counselling or social work for example. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. For further information and an applications forms email us or write to KCA (UK) Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Alternatively, call us on 01795 590635. www.kca.org.uk

To apply/more information: KCA (UK)

Quoting Job Ref: 553
Tel: 01795 590635
Email: recruitment@kca.org.uk

Support staff and Team Leaders

Folkestone

Salary: £6 Per Hour
Support staff and Team Leaders Required for our autism specific service in Folkestone. NVQ qualification preferred although not essential. Please call Tom on 01303 251618/ 01303 259561 for more details.
Salary £6 + per hour.
To apply/more information: Tom
Cherries Care Home (The)
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01303 251618
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Primary Care Based Psychological Therapists

Ashford
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492 PA
Closing Date: Monday 9 March
Part time work available (minimum 18.5 Hours) KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. We currently require additional experienced psychological therapists to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. For Ashford based roles, the number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the requirements of the service. We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings, effective administration, and opportunities for further training and career development. Applicants will be required to be qualified to a minimum of Diploma level. A knowledge of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is highly desirable and you should be eligible for BACP accreditation and/or UKCP registration. Providing focused, short term interventions, you're equal to home working independently or as part of a team. For an informal discussion of the above posts please contact David Hayter, Operations Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635 Please quote the reference.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 552
Tel: 01795 590635
Email: recruitment@kca.org.uk

Locum and Bank Psychological Therapists

Kent
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 9 March
KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. We currently require additional experienced psychological therapists to work with adult clients in our well established service providing short term therapy within GP practices. We are looking for therapists to join our locum/bank list for short term therapeutic work across Kent. We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings, effective administration, and opportunities for further training and career development. Applicants will be required to be qualified to a minimum of Diploma level. A knowledge of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is highly desirable and you should be eligible for BACP accreditation and/or UKCP registration. Providing focused, short term interventions, you're equal to home working independently or as part of a team. For an informal discussion of the above posts please contact David Hayter, Operations Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635 Please quote the reference.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 552
Tel: 01795 590635
Email: recruitment@kca.org.uk

Senior Practitioner

Rochester
Salary: £31,348 - £40,220 pa
Closing Date: 13 March 2009
37 hours per week Located: Elaine Centre, Strood, Rochester
Medway is continuing to move forward the development of its Children's Services. As part of our recent restructuring of Children's Services we have merged our Looked After Children's Team with our Leaving Care Team. We are committed to putting children at the centre of our service. We have an exciting vision for the future that will provide fully integrated services, which emphasise partnership and participation. We're looking for talented and enthusiastic people to join our exciting journey. You can offer you an environment in which new ways of thinking and working are warmly welcomed together with the opportunity to be involved in unique and creative projects and extend your skills and interests to meet the needs of young people. You will take responsibility for a small caseload of complex cases. As well as setting the standard for colleagues to follow, you will supervise the work of other members of the team and actively coach, mentor and develop them. You can expect excellent training, career opportunities, final salary pension, generous annual leave, flexible working hours and much more. We would preferably like you to have a post qualifying award a practice teacher/assessor award a proven track record of developing and maintaining high standards of social work practice through supervision. For more information please call Jo Kavanagh (Team Manager) on 01634 335652 or by email joanne.kavanagh@medway.gov.uk Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure. All applicants must be registered, or in the process of registering with

GSSC. For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am - 8pm, sat 9am - 1pm or 01634 332843 24 hour answer phone Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

To apply/more information: Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: CA0463
Tel: 01634 333333
Email: jobs@medway.gov.uk

Music/Play Worker – Disability Specialist

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 31 March 2009
Pie Factory Music are seeking a creative and energetic individual with enthusiasm for a range of musical styles to work across East Kent with disabled children and young people, involving them in creating music. You will plan and deliver a wide range of music making sessions, courses and play activities for children with a range of abilities. This will include the use of specialist sound beam equipment (training provided). You will be qualified to NVQ3 in music/youth/play work or equivalent. Previous experience with disabled children preferred. You will need to be mobile and able to deliver sessions across East Kent. Skills in non-verbal communications systems, e.g. BSL, Makaton, PECS, etc., would be an advantage. For more information and an application pack, please call Steve Kreger on 01843 596777 or e-mail steve@piefactorymusic.com. To find out more about Pie Factory Music, visit www.piefactorymusic.com
Closing Date: 31/03/09
To apply/more information: Pie Factory Music
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 596777
Email: steve@piefactorymusic.com

Other

Security Staff

Maidstone
Salary: £6.50-£10 Per Hour
We are currently recruiting for security staff for contracts in the Kent and occasionally the London area. Successful candidates must hold a valid SIA licences including card and have experience in Static, Frontline and Door security. Contracts will vary and work can be long term as well as short, jobs may include working Mon-Fri others will just include weekends or both. For the right candidates there is opportunity for ongoing work. Salary can vary and is dependant on contract, location and experience.
To apply/more information: Carl Davis
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664999
Email: maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR

Folkestone
Salary: £18,000 - £22,000 Pro Rata
Closing Date: 26 March 2009
Up to 28 hours per week Fixed Term Contract A Media Box Supported Role **Closing date:** 26 March 2009 Interviews will be held on: 06 April 2009 For job specification or further information please see our website www.screensouth.org or contact Vanessa Cook Please send current CV and letter of motivation including where you saw the ad to vanessa.cook@screensouth.org or Screen South The Wedge 75

– 81 Tontine Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1JR T: 01303 259 777 F: 01303 259 786
To apply/more information: Vanessa Cook
Screen South
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email: vanessa.cook@screensouth.org

FILM COMMISSION ASSISTANT

Maidstone
Salary: £14,000 - £16,000
Closing Date: 01 April 2009
Closing date: 01 April 2009
Interviews will be held on: 09 April 2009 For job specification or further information please see our website www.screensouth.org or contact Vanessa Cook Please send current CV and letter of motivation including where you saw the ad to vanessa.cook@screensouth.org or Screen South The Wedge 75 – 81 Tontine Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1JR T: 01303 259 777 F: 01303 259 786
To apply/more information: Vanessa Cook
Screen South
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email: vanessa.cook@screensouth.org

Public Sector, Social Services

Deputy Premises Officer

Deal
Salary: £6.53 per hour
Closing Date: 12 noon Friday 20 March 2009
20 hours per week worked flexibly To appoint a Deputy Premises Officer to assist in an expanding area of work within the council. Embracing, booking and invoicing plus subsequent attendance at events, along with caretaking and the overseeing of the council's allotments. The post holder will need to be flexible as much of the work takes place in the evenings and at weekends. The successful candidate needs to be physically fit and should ideally have some relevant experience as well as being conversant with Microsoft IT packages. The council seeks to be a quality employer but parts of the Town Hall are difficult to access for the disabled. For an application pack contact Deal Town Council, Deal Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6BB Tel: 01304 361999 or Email dealtowncouncil@deal.gov.uk
Closing date for applications: Deputy Premises Officer - 12 noon Friday 20 March 2009
Interviews will be on the morning of Friday 27 March 2009.
To apply/more information: Deal Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 361999
Email: dealtowncouncil@deal.gov.uk

Deal Saturday Market Officer

Deal
Salary: £7.34 per hour
Closing Date: 12 noon Friday 27 March 2009
Part Time post – 10 hours per week. Salary £7.34 per hour (This involves unsocial hour working). To appoint a Market Officer who will oversee an increasingly busy market and has to work mostly on their own initiative to agreed protocols. A flexible approach to working hours is needed as well as a patient attitude to stallholders and public. Apart from the actual market day, during the week the duties require the officer to be available via a mobile phone to deal with enquiries and stallholder bookings. Record keeping is an important part of the duties. The post holder will need to be

physically fit and ideally conversant with Microsoft IT packages. For an application pack contact Deal Town Council, Deal Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6BB Tel: 01304 361999 or Email dealtowncouncil@deal.gov.uk
Closing date for applications: Deal Saturday Market Officer – 12 noon Friday 27 March 2009
Interviews will be on Friday 3 April 2009.
To apply/more information: Deal Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 361999
Email: dealtowncouncil@deal.gov.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Manager

Chislehurst
Salary: TBA
For Boutique in CHISLEHURST Previous Retail Experience Essential Call Ben or Michele 0208 316 6842
info@davinashoes.co.uk
To apply/more information: Davina Boutique
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 0208 316 6842
Email: info@davinashoes.co.uk

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

LGV C Driver

Aylesford
Salary: £9.00 p/h
Closing Date: 16/03/09
LGV C (Class 2) Drivers required for food delivery work for our client in Aylesford. 15-25 drops per day. A good understanding of tachy law and drivers hours, as well as a digital tachy card are essential. Immediate starts possible for suitable candidates.
To apply/more information: Andy or Alex
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664999
Email: maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

LGV Driver Dray

Dartford

Salary: £9.00ph
LGV C+E (Class 1) and LGV C (Class 2) drivers required to undertake deliveries of barrels and crates to licenced establishments in Kent and London. Applicants must have previous dry delivery experience. Drivers will be accompanied by a mate, who will assist with map reading, and the unloading of goods. Hours of work Monday to Friday and occasional weekends/bank holidays. Start times around 0500.

To apply/more information: Andy Clark
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664999
Email: maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

PCV Driver

Gravesend

Salary: £9.00ph
PCV drivers required for general coackwork for our clients based in Gravesend, Maidstone and Aylesford. Duties involve driving on set routes, transporting passengers to and from designated locations. Hours of work Monday to Friday, 0500 - 0800 sarts.
To apply/more information: Andy Clark
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664999
Email: maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner-voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services provided within any of the media listings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full cent where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of the advertiser.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error or inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owner for the media owner's standard media pack (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be repaid and any refunds or surcharges will be paid within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of timing of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-over or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PPS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that that advertiser would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any will be subject to the terms of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- All ad credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
- In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
- In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owner or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belongs to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Highways - District of Ashford

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS) (BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (SPEED LIMITS)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT No 6) ORDER 2009**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will extend the 40 mph speed limit on the following length of road.

A28 ASHFORD ROAD, BETHERSDEN

from the western termination point of the existing 40 mph speed limit for a distance of 2110 metres in a south westerly direction.

NB The length of 40 mph speed limit on A28 Ashford Road, Betersden, including the proposed length will be 3900 metres.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, between 9.00am and 5pm, at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Invicta House, Maidstone.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday, 30 March 2009

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DYNES LANE, BILSINGTON ALSO KNOWN AS SWANTON LANE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Dynes Lane, Bilsington from the junction with Stone Cross Road and the junction with Ashford Road, on or after 25 March 2009, for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Stone Cross Road and Ashford Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, ALDINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water main, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Aldington, as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule, on or after 9 March 2009, for an estimated period of seven weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown in column 4 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Bourne Road, Aldington	Between the junctions with Priory Road and Rocky Bourne Road	Via Priory Road, B2067 Bonnington Road, and Yew Tree	From 9 March 2009 for up to two weeks.
Phase 2			
Rocky Bourne Road / Mill Lane	Between the junctions of Bourne Road and Dickson's Bourne	Via Yew Tree, Cherry Orchard Lane, New Road Hill and Mill Lane	From 24 March 2009 for up to five weeks.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TORRINGTON ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Torrington Road, Ashford, between the junctions with Beaver Road and Lower Denmark Road, on 9 March 2009, for an estimated period of two weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Whitfeld Road, Riversdale Road and Torrington Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A28 ASHFORD ROAD, CHILHAM) (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public and workforce whilst the construction of a new water main is carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order on the A28 Ashford Road, Chilham for a distance of 350 metres alongside East Stour Farm. The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory 10mph speed restriction within the roadworks, which will be operated by means of a "convoy" when the roadworks are taking place.

The order will become effective on or after 23 March 2009 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until the works are complete. The order will only be in force at specific times when works are to be carried out. At these times, the appropriate signs and temporary traffic signals will be displayed on site.

Highways - District of Canterbury

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL LANE, BELTINGE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2009**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect:-

MILL LANE Prohibition of Driving from a point 27m south of the junction with Margate Road for the entire length of Mill Lane North

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW between 9.00am and 5pm, at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Invicta House, Maidstone.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday, 30 March 2009

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CANTERBURY) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No 15) ORDER 2009**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order, under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and 4(2), 32(1), 35(1) and 53 of the road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on both sides of Bingley Court, Canterbury, for the entire length and on St Andrew's Close, Canterbury on both sides from a point 27 metres south west of the junction with Rheims Way to the south western most extremity.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW between 9.00am and 5pm, at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Invicta House, Maidstone.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday, 30 March 2009.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HOLLOW LANE, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of new drainage gully chambers, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hollow Lane, Canterbury at the junction with Homersham, for 20 metres in a southerly direction, on 12 March 2009 for an estimated period of four days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Homersham, Wincheap, Pin Hill, Rhodasa Town, Old Dover Road, Nackington Road, Merton Lane and Iffen Lane.

Highways - District of Dover

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BETTSHANGAR BUSINESS PARK ROAD, DOVER) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2009**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50mph speed limit on following length of road,

Bettshangar Business Park Road

From the junction with A258 for a distance of 800 metres in a south westerly direction.

NB This length of road is currently unnamed.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Invicta House, Maidstone between 9.00am and 5pm.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday, 30 March 2009.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WELLINGTON ROAD, DEAL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because gas main works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Wellington Road, Deal from outside 22 Wellington Road to the junction of Victoria Road on or after 23 March 2009 for an estimated period of 7 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Blenheim Road, Gilford Road, Victoria Road, Ranelagh Road, Prince of Wales Terrace and South Street.

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes
Wellington Road	From outside 22 Wellington Road to the junction of Victoria Road.	Blenheim Road, Gilford Road, Victoria Road, Ranelagh Road, Prince of Wales Terrace and South Street.
Wellington Road	Suspension of existing one way traffic order between Blenheim Road and Victoria Road.	N/A

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PALMER AVENUE & HAWKINS AVENUE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Palmer Avenue, Gravesend between its junction with Beckett Mews and property numbered 91 and on Hawkins Avenue, Gravesend between its junctions with Ferguson Avenue and Palmer Avenue.

The Order will become effective on 9th March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the routes described above will be via: Christian Fields Avenue and Warrior Avenue.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the redevelopment of the Christian Fields Estate.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
A20 MAIN ROAD GORSE HILL, DONKEY LANE AND SCRATCHERS LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN, FAWKHAM & FARNINGHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst events are being held on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A20 Main Road Gorse Hill between the Brands Hatch Main Entrance and the junction with Hever Road on the Cycleway only. This Order will restrict all vehicular traffic to travel at a speed not exceeding 30mph on A20 Main Road Gorse Hill between its junction with A225 Eynsford Road and the Texaco Petrol Station. This Order will prohibit all right turns onto and out from Donkey Lane at its junction with A20 Main Road Gorse Hill. This Order will also prohibit westbound traffic on Scratchers Lane between its junctions with A20 Main Road Gorse Hill and Three Gates Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the prohibition and restrictions will apply on the dates and at the times as noted in Schedule 1 and when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via:

Scratchers Lane: Westbound traffic will be directed via Fawkham Road and A20 Main Road Gorse Hill.

Donkey Lane From A20: Continue A20 Main Road Gorse Hill then Botsom Lane, Maplescombe Lane and then Donkey Lane.

From Donkey Lane onto A20 heading coastbound: Turn left onto A20 Main Road Gorse Hill to Kings Roundabout then A20 Main Road Gorse Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to reduce traffic disruption whilst events are being held at Brands Hatch.

Schedule 1

Road and Restriction	Dates Applicable
A20 Main Road Gorse Hill (30mph Speed Limit)	29th March, 5th April, 13th April, 3rd May, 19th July, 9th August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November
A20 Main Road Gorse Hill (Cycleway Closure)	29th March, 5th April, 13th April, 3rd May, 19th July, 9th August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November
Donkey Lane (Prohibition of Right Turns)	29th March, 5th April, 13th April, 3rd May, 19th July, 9th August, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November
Scratchers Lane (One Way Order)	9th August

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
OTFORD LANE, HALSTEAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are being carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Otford Lane, Halstead between its junctions with Halstead Lane and A224 Polhill.

The Order will become effective on 23rd March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A224 London Road, Shoreham Lane, Halstead Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to carriageway patching works to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named Christian Centre, First Floor Hall, Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County of Kent, was on 16 February 2009 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section1 (1) of the Marriages Acts Amendment Act, 1958.

Superintendent Registrar
1 March 2009

PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named Santi Vanaram Buddhist Temple, The Old School, Rose Street, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9EQ in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County of Kent, was on 29 January 2009 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section1 (1) of the Marriages Acts Amendment Act, 1958.

Superintendent Registrar
15 February 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/00291/LB – Yotes Court Mereworth Road Mereworth Maidstone Kent ME18 5JQ – Mr R Ricci is applying for Listed Building Application: Removal of two existing chimney breasts at first floor. Reason: CA LB

TM/09/00351/LB – Leybourne Wood Seven Mile Lane Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8QY – Mr John Bailey is applying for proposed detached outbuilding/storage building to side of dwelling. Reason: DEPART

TM/09/00130/LB – Oast Farm Mill House Lane Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5BA – Mr David Garbett is applying for change of use of land from agricultural to the recreational keeping of horses, demolition of commercial building (used to make hanging baskets) and replacement with stable (3 bays), store and tackroom. Reason: CA HA

TM/09/00234/LB – 1 High Street East Malling West Malling Kent ME19 6AJ – Mr Paul Wakenell is applying for Listed Building Application: Conversion of existing residential accommodation on first and second floor to create two self-contained apartments with amenity space and parking. Reason: CA LB PROW

TM/09/00119/LB – 33 Sevenoaks Road Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8AU – Mrs L Gobbo is applying for Listed Building Application: Install white aluminium secondary glazing. Reason: LB

TM/09/00317/FL – Hopper Building Park Farm Bradbourne Lane Ditton Aylesford Kent – East Malling Trust For Horticultural Research are applying for renovation and conversion of existing office storage accommodation to office suite. Reason: CA

TM/09/00216/LB – Snodland Railway Station High Street Snodland Kent ME6 5AN – Mr Ian Paterson is applying for Listed Building Consent: Installation of 3 pieces of community art on disused doorways and a disused window on the platform side of Snodland Station building. Reason: CA LB

TM/09/00311/FL – Three Firs Ismays Road Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BB – Mr And Mrs D Percy are applying for construction of garage (resubmission). Reason: CA

TM/08/03707/FL – Wealden House Long Mill Lane Dunks Green Tonbridge Kent TN11 9SD – Mr Howard Hanley is applying for erection of annexe, games room and triple garage including new front boundary wall and entrance gates. Reason: DEPART

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
PROW	Application affects a Public Right of Way
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HA	Site is over 1ha.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button “Do It Online” and follow the instructions for “Planning Applications” online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 29 March 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

8 March 2009



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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

At its meeting on 19 February 2009, the Council set the following council taxes for the year 2009/10:

Part of the Council's area:	Valuation Band							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Tonbridge	929.32	1,084.21	1,239.09	1,393.98	1,703.75	2,013.52	2,323.30	2,787.96
Addington	962.37	1,122.76	1,283.16	1,443.55	1,764.34	2,085.12	2,405.92	2,887.10
Aylesford	957.00	1,116.49	1,275.99	1,435.49	1,754.49	2,073.48	2,392.49	2,870.88
Birling	950.56	1,108.99	1,267.41	1,425.84	1,742.69	2,059.54	2,376.40	2,851.68
Borough Green	970.74	1,132.53	1,294.32	1,456.11	1,779.69	2,103.27	2,426.85	2,912.22
Burham	946.51	1,104.26	1,262.01	1,419.76	1,735.26	2,050.76	2,366.27	2,839.52
Ditton	1,003.48	1,170.72	1,337.97	1,505.21	1,839.70	2,174.19	2,508.69	3,010.42
East Malling & Larkfield	955.03	1,114.20	1,273.37	1,432.54	1,750.88	2,069.22	2,387.57	2,865.08
East Peckham	964.78	1,125.58	1,286.37	1,447.17	1,768.76	2,090.35	2,411.95	2,894.34
Hadlow	961.68	1,121.95	1,282.23	1,442.51	1,763.07	2,083.62	2,404.19	2,885.02
Hildenborough	938.52	1,094.93	1,251.35	1,407.77	1,720.61	2,033.44	2,346.29	2,815.54
Ightham	950.00	1,108.33	1,266.66	1,424.99	1,741.65	2,058.31	2,374.99	2,849.98
Kings Hill	958.11	1,117.79	1,277.48	1,437.16	1,756.53	2,075.89	2,395.27	2,874.32
Leysbourne	967.13	1,128.32	1,289.50	1,450.69	1,773.06	2,095.44	2,417.82	2,901.38
Mereworth	942.88	1,100.02	1,257.17	1,414.31	1,728.60	2,042.89	2,357.19	2,828.62
Offham	956.25	1,115.62	1,275.00	1,434.37	1,753.12	2,071.86	2,390.62	2,868.74
Platt	955.28	1,114.49	1,273.70	1,432.91	1,751.33	2,069.75	2,388.19	2,865.82
Plaxtol	951.42	1,109.99	1,268.56	1,427.13	1,744.27	2,061.41	2,378.55	2,854.26
Ryarsh	959.30	1,119.18	1,279.06	1,438.94	1,758.70	2,078.46	2,398.24	2,877.88
Shipbourne	952.83	1,111.63	1,270.44	1,429.24	1,746.85	2,064.45	2,382.07	2,858.48
Snodland	970.59	1,132.35	1,294.12	1,455.88	1,779.41	2,102.93	2,426.47	2,911.76
Stansted	962.88	1,123.36	1,283.84	1,444.32	1,765.28	2,086.24	2,407.20	2,888.64
Trottscliffe	951.08	1,109.59	1,268.10	1,426.61	1,743.63	2,060.65	2,377.69	2,853.22
Wateringbury	996.28	1,162.32	1,328.37	1,494.41	1,826.50	2,158.59	2,490.69	2,988.82
West Malling	969.16	1,130.68	1,292.21	1,453.73	1,776.78	2,099.83	2,422.89	2,907.46
West Peckham	938.82	1,095.28	1,251.75	1,408.22	1,721.16	2,034.09	2,347.04	2,816.44
Woudham	960.47	1,120.55	1,280.62	1,440.70	1,760.85	2,081.01	2,401.17	2,881.40
Wrotham	968.55	1,129.97	1,291.40	1,452.82	1,775.67	2,098.51	2,421.37	2,905.64

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

A224 POLHILL, OTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A224 Polhill, Otford between its junctions with Otford Lane and Pilgrims Way West.

The Order will become effective on 9th March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 2 Sundays, 15th and 22nd March 2009. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via:

For Non-motorway Traffic: Otford Lane, Knockholt Road, Halstead Lane, Old London Road and Star Hill Road.

For Motorway Traffic: A224 Polhill, M25, A25 Westerham Road/Worships Hill, A224 London Road/Polhill.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the removal of dangerous trees.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGHSTED ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of highway modifications for a new junction, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Highsted Road, Sittingbourne, from the junction with Farm Crescent to the junction with Cromers Road, on or after 23 March 2009, for an estimated period of 7 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bell Road, Woodstock Road and Cromers Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (OLD HOCKLEY ROAD, THROWLEY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because a new electrical supply is being provided, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Old Hockley Road, Throwley for a distance of 400 metres outside Flint Cottage on or after 23 March 2009, for an estimated period of 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Pettfield Hill Road and Church Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(ST MARY'S ROAD, FAVERSHAM) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works in East Street are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on St Marys Road, Faversham from its junction with Institute Road to jct East Street on or after 9 March 2009 for an estimated period of three weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Institute Road, Newton Road and East Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TUNSTALL ROAD/BREDGAR ROAD, BREDGAR) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Tunstall Road/Bredgar Road, Bredgar between Primrose Lane and 1 Oakwood Cottages on or after 9 March 2009 for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bexon Lane, Ruin Barn Road and Tunstall Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 9 March 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MANOR ROAD, ST NICHOLAS AT WADE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because scaffolding and sewer connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Manor Road, St Nicholas at Wade at the junction with The Length on or after 9 March 2009 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A28 Canterbury Road and The Length.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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INSIDE

Scorpion scorcher – baby Fiat with a big sting in its tail



**Picasso a work
of art** Page 84



**Value for money
hatchback** Page 85



**Skoda's sporty
Fabia** Pages 88-89

FIAT re-launched its legendary Abarth sporting arm last year and there was understandable cynicism.

Founded 60 years ago by Austrian Karl Abarth, it became famous for making giant killers out of painstakingly fettling everyday Fiats – Abarth's adoption of a Scorpion as the house crest neatly summed up the powers of the early cars.

Over the years though, Abarth was controlled increasingly by Fiat and finally taken over, with the Scorpion badge undermined by application to lesser products.

It remains to be seen whether the memory of those latter years will be erased by the new £13,600 Abarth 500.

It would be easy to dismiss the eye-catching newcomer as more 'Scorpion badge engineering', especially as it is derived from the cult car of the moment – the retro-styled Fiat 500.

Based on our recent drive in the impressive

By **STEVE LOADER**

and affordable Abarth Grande Punto supermini though, the omens are good for the Abarth 500.

Installing the turbocharged 135bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine, delivering 0-62mph in 7.9 seconds and a 128mph maximum, required some front end re-working so the Abarth is subsequently longer as well as lower than a standard Fiat 500.

The engine can be adjusted for sportier responses, by hitting a 'sport' button on the dashboard that also gives the steering a firmer feel and more poise in corners.

The suspension has been upgraded for sportier handling too, but Fiat claims this is a hot hatch for our straitened times – it should average more than 40mpg, providing its power is not exercised too much, but 155g/km of CO2 emissions does just boost the Abarth into the £145/year band-D for

road tax, while insurance is Group 13U.

The more muscular body style comes from a lower stance, sporty side skirts, larger roof spoiler and a deep aerodynamic diffuser at the rear.

The diffuser is a work of sporting art in itself with vents to draw hot air away from the brakes and twin tail pipes with small Abarth Scorpions just above.

Standard kit includes air con, electric front windows, leather seats, seven airbags, electrically adjustable body coloured door mirrors, 16-inch alloys, premium CD/MP3/radio sound system and Fiat's Blue&Me hands-free communication system.

The car's performance and handling can also be up-rated by a retro-fit £2,500 Esseesse kit, boosting the engine to 160bhp and adding 17-inch wheels.



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08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 1900 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 SUZUKI SX4 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 1800 MILES.....	£9995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£9995
08 58 NEW VAUXHALL AGILA 1-2 DESIGN AUTO BLACK 650 MILES.....	£9995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR ULTRA BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR SILVER 2000 MILES.....	£10995
08 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 4000 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 450 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£5995
08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 1000 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 5000 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 MATRIX 1-6 GSI PAS AIR/C AUTO SHIMMER BLUE 1500 MILES.....	£6995
08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLACK PAS AIR/C 1900 MILES.....	£8995
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS 5 DOOR THE NEW BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£10495
08 08 NEW FOCUS 2-0 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DOOR BLACK 5000 MILES.....	£12995
08 08 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£8495
08 08 NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 3000 MILES.....	£8995
08 08 NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 1400 MILES.....	£8995
08 08 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 1800 MILES.....	£10995
08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 999 MLS.....	£10995
08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£9995
08 57 RENAULT MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION 4DR AUTO GREY 9000 MILES.....	£7495
08 57 KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION AUTO PAS INTENSE BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£7995
08 57 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE BLUE 10000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 HONDA CIVIC 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 7000 MILES.....	£10995
07 57 MERCEDES C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE CUBANITE 13000 MILES.....	£16995
07 57 RENAULT MODUS INITIALE 1-6 AUTO PAS LEATHER 9000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1500 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 6000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57 NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1000 MILES.....	£8995

COUPES & CONVERTIBLES

08 08 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS CONVERTIBLE BLACK 3000 MILES.....	£
08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO CABRIOLET SILVER 2000 MILES.....	£12495
08 08 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS SILVER 800 MILES.....	£11995
07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS GREY 2000 MILES.....	£10995
07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£10995
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 S CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES.....	£10995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 2-0 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 19000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 17000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 HYUNDAI 2-0 COUPE SE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA CONVERTIBLE SPORT AUTO PAS AIR GREY 9000MILES.....	£9995
06 06 TIGRA EXCLUSIVE 1-4 5 SPEED BLACK LEATHER 14000 MILES.....	£9495
05 05 MERC 270 CDI DIESEL CLK SILVER ALLOYS LEATHER 48000 MILES.....	£14995
02 52 MERC 240 CLK AVANTGARDE AUTO PAS ALLOYS SILVER 8000MILES.....	£10995

FORD FUSION & FIESTA

07 07 FIESTA 1-6 STYLE CLIMATE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 5000 MILES.....	£7495
07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C AMYTHYST 4000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000MILES.....	£7995
07 07 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 20000 MILES.....	£6995
05 55 FIESTA 1-6 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE LEATHER 4000 MILES.....	£6995
05 05 FUSION 2 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR PANTHER BLACK 20000 MILES.....	£5495
03 53 FUSION 2 1-4 AUTO PAS AIR/C BRONZE METALLIC 38000 MILES.....	£2995

FORD FOCUS & C-MAX

07 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C OCEAN BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 FOCUS C-MAX GHIA AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 9000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS ESTATE ALLOYS BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DOOR ALLOYS SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£6995
06 55 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DOOR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 17000 MILES.....	£6495
06 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SEA GREY METALLIC18000 MILES.....	£6495
06 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC12000 MILES.....	£6495
05 55 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£7995
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PASAIR/C JEANS BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£6495
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 13000MLS.....	£6495
04 54 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS ROSSO RED 15000 MILES.....	£4995
04 04 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS LEATHER TONIC BLUE 24000 MILES.....	£5995

CORSAS

07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 19000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 680 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER CD 18000 MILES.....	£4995
05 55 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR STAR SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES.....	£5995

CITROEN

07 07 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 10000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£8995
05 55 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO WICKED RED 17000 MILES.....	£6995
05 05 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO BLUE MET 8000 MILES.....	£5995
05 05 CITROEN C4 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER MET 19000 MILES.....	£5495

CHRYSLER

06 06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 5DR TOURING SILVER BIRCH 6000 MILES.....	£6495
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MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR BLUE MET 11000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR BLUE MET 13000 MILES.....	£9495
07 56 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C WINNING BLUE 11000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR BRIGHT RED 14000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 MAZDA 2 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR TONIC 7000 MILES.....	£6495

SKODA

08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 450 MILES.....	£9995
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HONDA

06 55 HONDA CRV SPORT 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£9995
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HYUNDAI

07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX AUTO PAS BLUE AIR ALLOYS 12000 MILES.....	£5495
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI PAS AIR/C AUTO BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
06 56 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX AUTO PAS SILVER AIR ALLOYS 5000 MILES.....	£4995
06 06 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI PAS AIR AUTO MET GREEN 10000 MILES.....	£5495

TOYOTA

07 57 NEW AYGO PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO PAS AIR/C ICE BLUE 5000 MILES.....	£7495
07 56 NEW YARIS TS 1-5 5DR AUTO PAS CRYSTAL GREEN 5000MILES.....	£7995
06 06 NEW YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 8000 MILES.....	£7995
05 05 YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 13000MILES.....	£7995
05 05 YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS GREEN 23000MILES.....	£6995
05 54 YARIS 1-0 T SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE ALLOYS 22000 MILES.....	£5495
05 54 YARIS 1-0 T SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE ALLOYS 22000 MILES.....	£5495
03 03 YARIS 1-3 GLS 3 DR AUTO PAS CARLO BLUE SUNROOF 24000 MILES.....	£4995
Y 01 COROLLA 1-6 GS 5 DOOR AUTO PAS SILVER 35000 MILES.....	£3995

NISSAN

07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 1400 MILES.....	£8995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ORANGE 3000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C DARK BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C YELLOW 15000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CAFFE LATTE 32000MILES.....	£5995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER BIRCH 10000 MILES.....	£5995

SUZUKI

03 03 SUZUKI WAGON 1-3GL SPECIAL 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£3695
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MG ROVER

03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES.....	£3495
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†Typical 9.9% APR applies to selected 207 models. Prices may vary at each dealer. Offers subject to status. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill RH1 1QA. *Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £55 Government First Registration Fee and apply to the 207 Verve (65 TITRE) 1.4 8V 3 door and 308 Verve 1.4VTI 95 5 door. Different offers available in Northern Ireland and Channel Islands - ask your local Peugeot Dealer for details. Offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered from 1st February 2009 until such point as they may be withdrawn by Peugeot Motor Company PLC at its discretion. *This payment does not have to be made if you choose to hand your car back to Peugeot. Offers subject to availability at participating Robins & Day dealers only. Prices, offers and information correct at time of going to press. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only.

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Zoom-Zoom star is out in the open

AFTER fleeting glimpses of the all-new Mazda3, the Japanese 'Zoom-Zoom' brand offered a full picture this week at the Geneva show.

Not surprisingly, the eye was caught by the MPS performance flagship – better looking and even more capable than the first generation model.

Mazda has retained a limited slip differential from the original, which should allow the impressive 2.3-litre turbocharged engine of the MPS to apply its power without causing the front driving

wheels to scabble or relay the dreaded 'torque steer' to the driver's hands.

At the same time as reminding us of its sporting brand aspirations though, Mazda is using Geneva to highlight its attention to greener motoring with lighter and sleeker design and now, the new fuel and emissions saving 'i-stop' system on the Mazda3, which cuts the engine and smoothly re-starts whenever the car is stopped at a red light or bogged down in traffic.

The new Mazda3 range is expected around May.

April debut for Citroën's latest Picasso creation

CITROËN underpins the success of the Picasso MPV sub-brand on April 9 with the launch of its most eye-catching version yet.

The C3 Picasso has captured the Top Gear 'Family Car of the Year' award before it even hits the streets and market watchers at CAP predict it will hold its second-hand value around 10

per cent better than rivals such as the Vauxhall Meriva, Nissan Note and Renault Modus. Affordable versatility and space will be a strength too with prices from just £11,495 – the more desirable diesels start £1,100 higher.

Three trim levels will be offered and the newcomer should maintain the French marque as Europe's premier

MPV producer, a position built upon the long-serving Xsara Picasso.

This model was launched in 2000 and swiftly stole leadership of the compact MPV sector created by the original Renault Scenic – Citroën has since added five and seven-seat C4 Picassos and now the elegantly executed five-door C3.



Seat's new 'back to black' offer

COLOUR is a big part of Seat marketing.

Having made red, yellow and white popular again for performance models, the Spanish marque is backing black with the Ibiza Black special based on the five-door 1.4 Sport variant, including air con and electric windows all round.

Extras include unique front and rear bumpers, side skirts, tailgate roof spoiler, arch-filling 17-inch alloys, dark tinted rear windows and black metallic paint – all for £12,345 and featuring a lively 83bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine with five-speed manual gearbox.



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Our prices are less than Parker's Price Guide†

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Total amount payable	£7,932.45	APR	11.9%

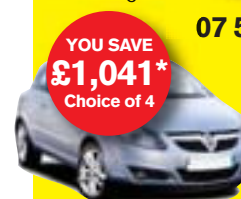
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by
STEVELOADER

CARMAKERS have favoured different identities for three and five-door versions of hatchback models lately, but this is one area where the new Hyundai i20 marks a return to convention.

The unveiling of the three-door version this week shows little deviation from the five-door launched a few weeks ago, except that longer doors enhance the crease along its flanks and the rear side windows have a pronounced upward kick at the back.

Other than that, the 'junior' i20 – due next month – simply underlines evidence of the Korean marque's ambition to be seen as more than a value brand offering five-year warranties.

The i20 range replaces the Getz, itself an affirmation of Hyundai's intention to attack the more demanding UK and European markets with specially tailored models; the Getz did not quite hit the mark for interior quality and driving enjoyment, but it was practical, durable and well-priced.

Its successor corrects those weaknesses and with a £8,195 start price from launch – £450 less than the i20 five-door – remains keenly priced and generously equipped.

Most i20 three-door buyers are expected to choose the lightweight 76bhp 1.2-litre petrol engine – dubbed 'Kappa' – recently installed in the smaller i10 city car and making a name for low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

They will also enjoy a feature that even BMW's Mini has not got right right: folding/sliding front seats that return to their original position, rather than needing readjustment, after allowing someone to get in and out of the rear seats.

All i20s have six airbags – front, side and curtain – as standard, plus active head-restraints.

Hyundai three-door apes sister for style



Korean concept re-invents the SUV

GLOBAL recession and volatile fuel prices have clobbered the seemingly unstoppable fashion for rugged 4x4 styling.

But what is now more often known as the SUV (sports utility vehicle) is not dead yet according to Hyundai, unveiling this almost elegant concept car likely to inspire a replacement for its current Tucson SUV and attack the family hatchback segment.

Called 'ix-onic' (pictured) and pronounced 'ik-sonnik', the

crossover styling has been penned by Hyundai's design team in Germany and has Nissan's hugely successful Qashqai in its sights.

As always, we wonder how much of the daring design

will reach produc-

tion once cor-

porate bean

counters run

the calcula-

tor over it,

but there are

interesting

details that may appear on cars at some stage.

For instance, high-tech plastics have been used to create a dramatic 3-D tailgate window and extra spoilers integrated to reduce drag.

As one who continually wonders why door speakers are mounted so that they are automatically

muffled by the driver and front passenger's legs, it is also interesting to note how they are located much higher in this exhibition car.

The car has a futuristic powertrain too: a lively 168bhp 1.6-litre diesel with fuel/emissions-saving ISG (Idle Stop & Go) technology – delivering 149 g/km of CO2 and road tax band C (£120/yr) – and a double-clutch six-speed transmission that should offer the best of both manual and automatic gear selection.



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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Lacetti and Aveo £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered by 15th March and registered before 31st March 2009. Sale savings apply only to the specific models shown. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev66592)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr SW: Urban - 27.9 (10.1), Extra-urban - 44.1 (6.4), Combined - 36.2 (7.8). CO₂ emissions 181g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 40.9 (6.9), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions 119g/km.



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Model shown is Terios 1.5 SX available at £13,995 OTR. Metallic paint is an extra cost. All prices include £55 first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. Price is correct at time of going to print. 5 years (or up to 45,000 miles whichever comes first) free servicing on all vehicles registered between 1st January and 31st March 2009. Award winning reliability, as published in the 'Which?' Magazine Car Awards 2008.

Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures (mpg (Litres per 100 km) and CO₂ emissions g/km) Urban Cycle 26.4 (10.7) – 29.1 (9.7) Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) – 40.4 (7.0) Combined 33.2 (8.5) – 35.8 (7.9) CO₂ emissions 185 – 201

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Model shown is Fabia 1 1.2 6V HTP 60bhp at £7,207.61 RRP. **Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Range: Urban 27.7 (10.2) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra-urban 47.1 (6.0) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 37.7 (7.5) – 68.9 (4.1).** CO₂ emissions for the Fabia Range 109 – 180g/km.

*Based on Fabia 3 Estate 1.9 TDI PD 105 bhp manual. Offer available on all Fabia purchased and registered from limited stock between 11th February 2009 and 31st March 2009 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is the equivalent of VAT at 15%. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. Excludes Channel Islands. Offer subject to availability and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Please see retailer for full terms and conditions.

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DrivingReview

by
STEVE LOADERCHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk**Skoda Fabia**

SKODA dealers will tell you that one of the most sought-after used Fabias is the first generation vRS diesel hot hatch.

It was a cracker: a bargain when new, fast, good to drive, well kitted out and economical – a genuine everyday pocket rocket – and they don't linger on dealers' forecourts second-hand either.

A successor is awaited with some impatience, but there is a cut-price alternative for now in the form of the latest Fabia in Sport trim.

It's no Mini Cooper in terms of image, but Sport prices start from £10,652 – compared with overall Fabia prices from £7,931 – and comes with generous kit, while you need £13,000 to get a basic Cooper.

The Sport also looks the part; the latest five-door Fabia body is more stylish than the rather frumpy original anyway, but this trendy trim level includes 16-inch alloys, body kit with rear spoiler, chromed oval exhaust and front fogs.

The optional Mini-esque white roof is some-

Sport's real style



thing of a no-brainer too, even for an additional £345, since it visually lowers and peps up the car's styling.

"We have not sold a Fabia Sport so far without the customer ordering a white roof and we would not order one without it for stock either," said John Roberts, area branch manager for

Caffyns Skoda of Ashford and Tonbridge.

"It is something of a must with Sport trim, appealing to a new younger Fabia customer, one that used to be drawn by the old vRS – a version we still hope will be revived, perhaps later this year."

Sport interior spec is impressive too with

electric front windows, leather trimming and sports seats as part of a comprehensive package on top of the standard Fabia's robust materials, ample stowage and – this time around – much 'sunnier' cabin.

It is all a far cry from the Soviet Bloc Skoda plastic-covered card trim of a few decades ago.

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08/08 QASHQAI 1.50Ci Acenta in Cafe Latte

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£13,654	£13,995	£3659

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£27,585	£16,995	£10,590

Pathfinder

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08/08 Navara Long Way Down Expedition (£5k extra), Black
08/08 Navara Aventura X-Black, Silver
08/08 Navara Long Way Down Expedition Auto (£4.5k extra)
08/08 Navara Double Cab Aventura A/TD, Storm Grey

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£27,007	£18,995	£8042
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A decent size boot with detachable stowage bin and two-position parcel shelf, also exhibits modern Skoda's usual thoughtful design. There is no special chassis tuning to go with the Sport label though – no doubt this is reserved for the vRS successor – but the basic Fabia set-up is suited to both staid and spirit-



ed driving. Skoda has managed to pitch the ride quality well for the supermini class, yet the car grips and corners with great style, helped by communicative steering and a decent gearshift. I had mixed feelings about the flagship 105bhp 1.9TDI engine in our pricey £13,155



● **Skoda has unveiled the rugged Scout version of the Fabia due in the UK for May. It features its own 'rough 'n' tough' bumper, plastic cladding and roof rails on this estate car spin-off. Despite the chunkier features, the newcomer does not have 4x4, but joins other Scout versions in the Skoda range in offering a more robust alternative to standard models. It will be available from late May this year.**

test car though. It is powerful and frugal – capable of averaging nearly 60mpg – but feels heavy and raucous except during motorway cruising, when its economy is best enjoyed. Consequently, would-be customers should also check out the cheaper 1.2 and 1.6-litre petrol and 1.4 diesel Fabia Sport alternatives.

DrivingStats

- Skoda Fabia Sport 1.9TDI £12,805
- Range: £7,931-12,859
- Garage stats: 3.99m by 1.88m five-door supermini
- Powertrain: 1,896cc/105bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 118mph and 0-62 in 10.8 seconds
- How green?: road tax band-C (£120/yr) CO2 emissions/129g per km
- Official fuel figures: combined 57.6mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): ****
- Fuel tank: 45 litres/9.9 gallons
- Insurance group: 4E
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo Mito, Chevrolet Aveo, Citroën C3, Daihatsu Sirion, Fiat Grande Punto, Ford Fiesta, Honda Jazz, Hyundai i20, Kia Rio, Mazda2, Nissan Micra, Perodua Myvi, Peugeot 207, Renault Clio, Seat Ibiza, Subaru Justy, Suzuki Swift or Splash, Toyota Yaris, Vauxhall Corsa or Agila and VW Polo.

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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Lacetti and Aveo £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered by 15th March and registered before 31st March 2009. Sale savings apply only to the specific models shown. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev66592)
Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr SW: Urban - 27.9 (10.1), Extra-urban - 44.1 (6.4), Combined - 36.2 (7.8). CO₂ emissions 181g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 40.9 (6.9), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions 119g/km.

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[03] HONDA CIVIC COUPE 1.7 VTEC AUTO, 2 Dr; Met.Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 21500 Miles, S/History, Ins Grp 11. **£4995**

[03] NISSAN MICRA 1.4 SE AUTO, 5 Dr; Black, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 37100 Miles, S/History, Ins Grp 4. **£4495**

[51] TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 CDX AUTO, 5 Dr; Pale.Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 45000 Miles, S/History, Ins Grp 5. **£3995**

[52] NISSAN ALMERA 1.8 E AUTO, 3 Dr; Met.Blue, PAS, C/Locking, E/F/Windows, Alloys, 2 Owners, 30500 Miles, S/History, Ins Grp 7 - PRIVATE CUSTOMER SALE. **£3495**

[55] MAZDA 5 1.8 TS2, 5 Dr; Met.Red, 7 Seats, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD, Alloys, Reversing Sensors, Only 12800 Miles, Ins Grp 6, S/History. **£7795**

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CS, 2.0HDI 16V 17VR+ 5dr Diesel tourer, gf08wvs, front electric windows, rear wiper, silver, 500 miles, £16995, Thames Group Welling, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

CB, 2.0 HDi 16V SX 5dr [136], 2007, 2.0 hdi 16v sx 5dr [136] diesel estate, silver, 8995 miles, £15995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

DISPATCH, 815 Enterprise Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, ce56vzv, twin sliding doors, dual passenger seat, cd player, remote central locking, power steering, grp lined, gah equipment, electric standby available if required (optional extra), white, 18000 miles, £8500, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

NEMO, 1.4 HDi X, 2008, 1.4 hdi x diesel, white, 1000 miles, £6995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

RELAY, 1800 2.8 LHD LWB Hi-Roof, y558xda, side load door, bulkhead, dual passenger seat, radio cassette, power steering, white, 55200 miles, £2995, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

SAXO, 1.6i 16v VTS Hatchback 3d 1587cc (2000), 03, mt, blue, £3999, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, 2003, 1.8i 16v sx 5dr estate, grey, 35000 miles, £3995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

FIAT

DOBLO, 8v Dynamic Hr, yx57pwn, grey, 1700 miles, £7495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

DUCATO, 30 100 Multijet L2 H1, ej56jfg, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, ply-lined, side load door, dual passenger seat, low floor, barn doors, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, cd player, electric windows, electric mirrors, white, 3000 miles, £7000, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, alloys, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, electric door mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, body coloured bumpers, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, audio remote control, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, jungle grey metallic, 4910 miles, £6995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

MAREA, TD 100 SX Weekend, 1998, red, 106000 miles, £995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Jtd 110 ELX (44.1 mpg £170 RFL grp 10 ins), eu02lth, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, parking sensor, power steering, abs, twin air bags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, cd player, radio, sunroof, alloy wheels, metallic red, 68000 miles, £3990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.2 Eleganza 5dr Hatch, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloys, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, electric door mirrors, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, climate control, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, space saver spare wheel, rear wiper, immobiliser, cocktail blue metallic, 14000 miles, £5495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 2.0 JTD SX 3+3 Combi Window Van, cloth upholstery, 3-person rear seat, twin sliding doors, barn doors, dual passenger seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, cd player, white, 37000 miles, £5000, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

STILO, 16v Active Sport 3dr, gj54 cxx, power steering, abs, trip computer, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cd player, radio, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, electric front windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, alloys, silver, 24300 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, Ghia (2005) 5-Dr 1.8 TDCi Lynx Stg 4 115 PS (-), 25/01/2006, black, 30933 miles, £7700, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

COURIER 1.8, 23/10/1998, white, 52421 miles, £34500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ESORT, FLIGHT 1.6 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, 2001 x, metallic cherry coachwork with contrasting black cloth trim, service history with recent service, new mot, only one family owner from new, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, electric windows, tinted glass, sun roof, multiple air bags, abs brakes, original hi-fi, metallic cherry, 109000 miles, £1495, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

FIESTA, STYLE, 07 2007, this car is just turned 1 year old the last owner decided that she does not do enough miles to warrant such a new car. It is still covered by the ford warranty, and does not need a mot for 2 years. it is in the very low tax and insurance gouns, this must be very good value for a small 5 door car with less then 5 thousand miles. test drive available, finance subject to status, blue, £7295, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

FOCUS C-MAX, 2006, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, moonduist silver, 23000 miles, £5689, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 Zetec Auto [Climate], 2007, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer 1 owner service history, panther black, 27000 miles, £6489, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

GALAXY, Ghia Tdci, vv08ofth, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, multi-disc cd player, radio, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 24500 miles, £13995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

KA, Luxury 3dr, ap04 fj, air conditioning, full leather, cd player, radio, power steering, air bag, electric front windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, alloy wheels, black, 11600 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MONDEO, LX 1798cc 5 door, 2001, cd player abs brakes air conditioning central locking alarm driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering immobiliser electric windows, gloss whight, 100000 miles, £2295, Northdown Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

MUSTANG, 3.8 v6 coupe, 1995, silver, 23579 miles, £5495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

RANGER, Supercab 2.5 TD 4X4, av05hiz, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, air conditioning, electric mirrors, electric windows, radio cassette, 4x4, x2 rear seats, hard top, load liner, white, 32000 miles, £4495, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 1.6i Red, 2005, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors heated front seat height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser red leather passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking sports seats, oyster silver, 31000 miles, £5489, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 280 100bhp LWB Med-Roof, in55wvz, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, bulkhead, ply-lined, side load door, semi-high roof, dual passenger seat, power steering, abs, air bag, radio cassette, blue, 44000 miles, £5000, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, Type-V, y915 mxx, front fog lamps, remote central locking, alarm, full leather, electric seats, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, rear headrests, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, twin air bags, electric sunroof, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, green, 54600 miles, £2995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, SE I-Dsi I-Shift 5dr, hg57mkm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, aluminium silver, 7000 miles, £10995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC SE Sport, oe53 ovj, air conditioning, power steering, electric sunroof, remote central locking, abs, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, twin air bags, alloy wheels, 4x4, red, 49900 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

STREAM, 7 seater SE sport, eu51sdo, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, air conditioning, climate control, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, radio, anti-theft system, central locking, folding rear seats, rear headrests, front fog lamps, yes this one comes with the desirable 7 seater option, green, 79000 miles, £3699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, Gsi 5dr, gk52ymp, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 60000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AMICA, CDX 5dr, 5058314, aluminium silver, 5000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

COUPE, 2006, silver, 25000 miles, £7995, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

GETZ, Gsi SE 3dr, en06 fdk, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, twin air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, central locking, red, 26900 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MATRIX, Gsi, dy08ytr, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, abs, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, cd player, alloy wheels, true blue, 1600 miles, £6995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

SANTA FE, Gsi Crt, 6881079, air con, cd player, radio, abs, power steering, electric sunroof, twin air bags, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, alloys, 4x4, silver, 40500 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

TRAJET, Gsi 2.0 Man, gx04lzs, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, aluminium silver, 50000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, Sports, 1045461, remote central locking, full leather, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, radio, 15" alloys, tahiti blue, 43000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TF, Sprint RT Sport Sports, remote central locking, alcantara leather, half leather, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, stereo, 15" alloys, platinum silver, 5800 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

ZR, 105 3dr, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, air bag, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, central locking, immobiliser, folding rear seats, grey, 83000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SAN

SANTA FE, 2.7 V6 Station Wagon 5d 2656cc auto, abs braking system, alloy wheels, air conditioning, electric sunroof / windows & mirrors, leather interior, foglights, power steering, remote locking, height adjustable driver's seat, 4 x 4, radio / cd, folding rear seats, gold metallic, 33000 miles, £4995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)



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MANUFACTURING is back in the news, *writes Tony Patey.*

From Government downwards there's a drive for what's being called a "rebalance" in the business and commercial economy. In other words, a need to get back to making things and creating wealth, not just passing it around.

This week there was gloomy news for South East manufacturing firms – but on the national front there's some good and bad news for the sector. Two out of five firms in the region hit by the economic downturn report that they've cut jobs, but on the wider scene predictions of even larger job losses have been tempered by reports that confidence is beginning to show through.

Confidence is a main motivator in getting the economy kick-started again. However, if current trends continue, manufacturers' organisation EEF says there could be 140,000 job cuts in the sector this year.

It says the Government must provide short-term wage subsidies to save jobs.

Latest results from a business trends survey by EEF show a significant deterioration in trading conditions over the last three months, with three out of every five South East firms reporting lower output volumes.

Almost seven in 10 say total new orders are down and 38 per cent report a fall in employment levels. Predictions for the next three months are gloomy. However, a survey of 11,000 firms by BDO Stoy Hayward shows a slight rise in short and mid-term confidence as many accept the realities of the recession.

The firm said the growth in optimism suggested action was being taken to adapt to the economic climate, although it predicted that

The pendulum swings back to manufacturing

320,000 more jobs would go across the UK in the next three months alone as firms cut back.

EEF said the recession has slowed demand for new vehicles as consumers cut back on larger purchases – a fact underlined this week by Kent-based Greens Motor Group going into administration with the loss of 70 jobs.

Traditionally, Kent's main manufacturing base has been Swale. It has been hit, but has fared better because of its strong base.

In the 1980s, 30 per cent of total employment in the area was in manufacturing, by the mid-90s it was 25 per cent, and now it's 17 per cent – twice the regional average and six per cent higher than the national average.

Kieren Mansfield, Swale's economic development officer, said there had been business 'surgeries' where firms with questions can get information in Sheppey, Sittingbourne, and Faversham. More are planned. One location

option is Eurolink, which is the major business park in the area, with 200-plus businesses, largely manufacturing and distribution. Mr Mansfield said: "In Swale we've always made things. We recognised long ago that the large-scale manufacturing historically associated with north Kent has been in serious decline for years. Now it's about companies that occupy niche markets and involved in R&D, developing new products and processes."

"There is a range of Government grants available for businesses. During the last recession parts of the South East got access to these for the first time and there was a high take up, which tailed off over the last four years.

"But we're seeing an increase in interest again. We'll see an increase in take-up," he said. "The other issue is skills. We have to look to the long term and skills is something we're determined to keep working on."

Tat'll do nicely

MUM-of-one Sam Petter was working for her parents at their struggling farm when she realised she needed a diversification project to help it survive.

She was keen on eco-credentials, so set up a business in 2004 in response to what she saw was a lack of organic and ethically sourced products for children. Run from the family farm near Sevenoaks,



SAM PETTER

Tatty Bumpkin is now a multi-award-winning business which has developed a successful range of clothes and curriculum-based movement and music classes for young children.

In February last year, she launched the Tatty Bumpkin franchise which has taken her from a small series of local classes in Kent to a national network.

Ms Petter said: "Our franchisees are all high-powered career women who have swapped the rat race for a more ethical and flexible career."

Classes support the National Curriculum and focus on flexible and creative activities.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Business has to move forward

Are you working in your business and is your business working for you?

Positivity needs to get back into business that's for sure. From SME's to larger corporations everyone is experiencing the hesitation of moving forward. If your aim is to 'survive' 2009, maintain your profile within the market and invest in your staff and business these are probably the keys which will ensure your sustainability.

It can be a financial pain when your company really needs some investment whether it be a cosmetic need, merger of branches, lease expiring, downsizing or relocating to new premises. The additional time needed to address these issues often presents more stress to the decision makers especially when the process will involve spending more money.

Whilst we are hearing the Banks are eager to lend money this is not always the route Directors wish to take as they may need a loan to assist with the cashflow of running their business from day to day.

Essential refurbishment costs can often exceed £10,000, including initial demolitions, electrical installations, building works and the rest. This is a lot of money to spend all at once but without the refurbishment your business won't be able to expand the way it needs to. There never seems to be an easy

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Times were once tough for charities when it came to getting serious money from businesses. A hard-won donation and a short mention in the footnotes in the firm's annual report, and that was that. Now all that has changed and charities and companies have a stronger link which has proved beneficial to both in terms of development and the bottom line. One of the leading charities in Kent, Demelza Hospice Care for Children, can give lessons to others in how to use careful marketing and promotion to boost fundraising, and give donors not only value added in the relationship but also a sense of belonging. Not only does it talk of USPs – unique selling points – which many companies can't detail even when pushed, but it can give clear and achievable targets and outcomes. The positive feedback into firms is that they get higher employee motivation, happier workers, community involvement and publicity, and a commercial return on investment. Demelza, which is based near Sittingbourne, has just celebrated its 10th year. Now it is launching its newest initiatives – the main one being Make Room in Your Heart. KOS Media talked to its corporate partnerships team, **Natalie Tegg** and **Donna Wells**.

Big-hearted firms backing Demelza

Q How many families are you helping at present?

A Natalie: About 570 with short breaks, respite and so on. We have been seeing some families for 10 years and they have a set number of days a year. There are 250 staff and nearly 800 volunteers.

Donna: The volunteers equate to nearly 48 full-time staff with the hours they put in. It is a marvellous level of support and extremely important to us. Our new hospice in south east London will be caring for an additional 300 children and families.

Natalie: They are a complete cross-section, from retired people to corporate people who come in and do challenges and volunteer days for their staff, and young people. We constantly need volunteers for all the things we do – gardening, in the kitchens and so on. It's a never-ending drive.

Q What are the opportunities for businesses and more general corporate links?

A Natalie: There are so many opportunities for the corporate sector, so many ways companies can come here and interact to the benefit of the company and us. We've had corporate support right from the start and that is growing, especially with the concept of corporate social responsibility, with companies from sole traders to multinationals taking an interest in their community.

Donna: Corporate activity accounts for 30 per cent of our fundraising income, the rest is from individuals, our lottery and shops, trusts, legacies and 'in memory' dona-

tions. There's been a lot of research about why companies donate and engage with charities, and there are measurable benefits which we have harnessed. It's a partnership, and for companies it means an increase in staff morale and motivation. It's cause-related marketing.

Natalie: Their community investment is now huge. It's no longer the cheque presentation, it is also all sorts of other different activities at different levels.

Donna: It is real-person development – we have had reports from companies saying being a partner with us has enabled them to go out into the community and demonstrate how they are supporting that community.

Q Where do you aim to go now with your corporate strategy?

A Natalie: To increase our level of support and maintain relationships with existing supporters while targeting new corporate backers. We worked with more than 1,000 corporate contacts last year – that's a huge number of businesses to account-manage.

Donna: We held our annual awards ceremony on Friday to recognise what our corporate supporters have done for us. This year we also have our Make Room in Your Heart campaign, launched on Valentine's Day with its brand as the Damien Hirst painting titled Beautiful Love Demelza Painting with Beautiful Butterflies.

That formed part of a substantial body of work by the artist which was auctioned in September. It raised a fantastic £650,000, plus a donation of the buyer's fee from Sotheby's.

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By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO Kent councils are at the centre of a new Euro-link offering local SMEs – small and medium-size enterprises – the chance to develop trade with northern France and western Belgium.

The Transmanche Enterprise Network (TEN) project is a 1.4 million euro (£1.25m) three-year business support initiative involving authorities in Kent, France and Belgium.

Involved are Canterbury City Council, Medway Council, Boulogne chamber of commerce, West Flanders regional development agency and the Reseau des Roches du Nord.

The initiative has three main elements:

- A business audit to help local firms with fewer than 10 employees explore the barriers they perceive are preventing them from trading in France and Belgium.
- Free workshops and seminars for up to 100 local businesses, which will cover topics such as tax advice and language courses. Funding is available to provide French and Flemish language translations for 25 firms' websites
- Funding to enable local businesses to attend exhibitions in northern France, western Belgium and England.

The aim is to establish a network of contacts that SMEs can use when they want to trade with companies in these areas.

Canterbury council leader Cllr John Gilbey said: "As we build stronger relationships with our partners on the near Continent, so the opportunities for businesses develop too."

"With this project it will become easier than ever to trade with companies over the Channel, so I urge local businesses to get involved and see how they can benefit."

The business audit part of the project will be launched this month and business owners with fewer than 10 employees can contact economic development officer Chris Inwood by calling 01227 862053 or emailing chris.inwood@canterbury.gov.uk.

Meantime, supporting local businesses will be the focus for Canterbury council during March with a series of free business events.

Its March Business Month is now a regular fixture and this year there are four free events across the district.

This Wednesday, a series of business master classes will take place at Hall Place, Harbledown, looking at opportunities arising from the London 2012 Olympics, getting the most out of marketing, building competitive advantage through collaborative innovation, and business and the environment.

On Thursday, March 19, a day at Abbots Barton Hotel in Canterbury will concentrate on education issues.

Education is big business in the city and the event offers an opportunity for businesses and

Link-up with enterprising neighbours

education providers to discuss and hear from one another about what they think the future holds.

And on Monday, March 23, the focus switches to retail, with a session at Learndirect in Whitstable. It will show retailers how to increase their market share by using specific marketing techniques and products, and a number of local businesses will be there to demonstrate how efficient online sales can be.

The annual Herne Bay Showcase is at the King's Hall on Tuesday, March 31.

Also, Canterbury council has pulled all business information together into one webpage. Go to www.business.canterbury.gov.uk, and click on the 'government support for business in the economic downturn' link.

'It will be easier than ever to trade across the Channel'

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type R%: Rate percentage L: Loan U: Until
OD: Other details

FIXED PRINCIPALITY

RT: FIXED R%: 4.59% L: 75% U: 31/03/2012
OD: £1,339

FIRST ACTIVE RBS

RT: FIXED R%: 4.19% L: 75% U: 31/03/2011
OD: £1,029

WOOLWICH

RT: FIXED R%: 4.39% L: 70% U: 30/04/2011
OD: £1,325

MARSDEN

RT: FIXED R%: 4.19% L: 75% U: 29/02/2011
OD: £1,325

OTHER ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.24% L: 75% U: 2 YEARS
OD: £2,310

ABBEY

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.79% L: 75% U: 3 YEARS
OD: £1,255

MARSDEN

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.49% L: 75% U: 28/02/2011
OD: £924

NATIONWIDE

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.68% L: 75% U: 3 YEARS
OD: £1,015

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BUPA	£33.31
LEGAL & GENERAL	£34.26
AXA	£34.57
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£34.67

COUPLE AGED 35

NORWICH UNION	£64.77
AXA	£67.73
ZURICH	£67.85
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£68.47
BUPA	£69.94

COUPLE AGED 30

NORWICH UNION	£44.21
BUPA	£46.43
ZURICH	£46.73
AXA	£46.91
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£47.31

COUPLE AGED 40

FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£101.96
AXA	£103.47
ZURICH	£106.82
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PRUDENTIAL	£118.62

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hospitality means business – special report



ECO-FRIENDLY: Pines Calyx, near Dover

Kent's entertaining options

COST-CUTTING is a top agenda item for companies and business organisations battling with everything the current downturn can throw at them, **writes Tony Patey.**

It's a hot topic at 'how to beat the recession' seminars being held around Kent, but speakers, such as Steve Wood of Baker Tilly, and Nick Hobden of Thomson Snell & Passmore, are warning firms not to shoot themselves in the foot.

Prune in the wrong place or by too much and you might kill off a strong growth point or a shoot which would have grown into good business in the future.

Entertaining and hospitality of clients, both existing and potential, is a case in point. Axe it and you'll risk losing current and future business as a rival firm pushes out the boat to

launch a similar product or service.

It's all a matter of degree, but the experts are adamant companies must at least do something to show customers they care about their trade. Firms still recognise the need to entertain existing and potential clients and customers to cement their business survival.

So, they're on the prowl for good value business entertainment and conference venues and hospitality opportunities, and, in turn, venues can also show that they, too, can rise to the challenge. Rob Grant, director of Dragonfly Recruitment, told Recruiter magazine recently that this year will see hospitality staffing firms

feel the impact of lower levels of event sponsorship, leading to a drop in the number of events to be staffed.

Apart from sponsorships deals, spending on marketing and community activities such as corporate social responsibility is also under the microscope. It all needs to be handled carefully. In the eye of the storm, the quiet spot in the centre of a swirling hurricane, is Kent Conference Bureau, which has just marked its 10th anniversary.

Formed in 1998 by Maidstone Borough Council, the bureau quickly expanded and now covers the whole county. It has developed a professional and personal relationship with venues in the area and the British Association of Conference Destinations.

The bureau, which, for instance, can arrange pre-visits to venues, is partly funded by Maidstone Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, Heart of Kent and Visit Kent. It says: "The Garden of England offers some of the finest conference and training venues, but at a fraction of the price of neighbouring London."

"Venues start only 12 miles from the City and stretch throughout the county to the coastal resorts, only 40 minutes from Calais."

"We have modern meeting facilities in castles and country houses, while the county's larger hotels offer a stylish alternative. Kent can offer several flagship chain hotels such as the Hilton, QHotels, Holiday Inn and Marriott, and there have been recent additions in the boutique hotel sector."

"Also, team-building activities can vary from a quiet round of golf, a simple treasure hunt, a high-wire forest adventure at Go Ape,

to an adrenaline-fuelled multi-activity day."

Many county towns are popular destinations with an array of venues on offer. For example, in The Precincts overlooking the cathedral is Canterbury Cathedral Lodge and International Study Centre.

Opened in 2000, it is a purpose-built conference centre with a maximum capacity of 250. It has the latest audiovisual and other technology as well as 35 bedrooms with views of the cathedral.

Award-winning Pines Calyx, surrounded by six acres of gardens behind the White Cliffs of Dover, is probably one of the UK's most eco-friendly venues for meetings, conferences and workshops.

On the edge of Tunbridge Wells is The Spa Hotel, a country mansion dating back to 1766 and set in 14 acres of

grounds. It has 72 bedrooms and guests have full use of the spa. In parkland just outside Maidstone, Oakwood House is a venue for conferences or overnight stays, while St Julian's in Sevenoaks is a Grade-II listed building in the Weald of Kent.

Being in a strategic location between London and the Continent – Ashford is as close to Lille as it is to London – means the county is ideally placed for all European connections, whether it's for a business meeting against the backdrop of Leeds Castle or a conference at the Dover cruise terminals.

"The conference market in Kent is still going strong and there are some very competitive rates available at venues across the county," said bureau manager Dawn Bowen. The bureau was recognised for providing 'an outstanding service in the business tourism industry' at the Tourism South East Excellence Awards 2008.



HEAVENLY: International Study Centre, Canterbury



PARKLAND: Oakwood House, near Maidstone



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hospitality means business – special report

Judge's ruling will be music to venues' ears

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

BACKGROUND music in pubs and restaurants can help create a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere if handled well, but it has come with a big extra cost to entertainment and hospitality venues over the last four years.

Now the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and the British Hospitality Association (BHA) have won a landmark appeal in the High Court which raises prospects of reductions in the fees paid by pubs, restaurants, hotels and other businesses, potentially worth millions of pounds to the sector.

The industry estimates that as a consequence of the increase in fees for playing background music, implemented in January 2005, the average pub and restaurant has



BAR NONE: Music fees could fall after a landmark ruling by the High Court

paid an additional £500-600 over the last four years, a total of at least £12 million.

The appeal was against the decision of the Copyright Tribunal on the value of the fees. Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL), which sets, administers and collects the fees, had attempted to limit the tribunal's jurisdiction to broadcast music only and have a separate tribunal for non-broadcast music.

Appeal judge Mr Justice Kitchen, in giving

his ruling, said this would be "inconvenient, cumbersome, expensive and involve a waste of judicial and public resources".

He also ruled it to be a misinterpretation of the Act. The court ruled that the Copyright Tribunal does have powers under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to set the value of both broadcast and non-broadcast music in one tariff.

BBPA chief executive Rob Hayward said: "This is a victory for common sense in an extremely complex area of law.

"We now look forward to going back to the Copyright Tribunal where we will do our utmost to secure a reduction in the fees, which will give much-needed financial relief to those licensees who are paying PPL well over the odds for music in their pubs."

BHA chief executive Bob Cotton said: "We are more than pleased to have been able to deliver this result for our members, which raises the real prospect of reverting charges for the playing of background music to a much more sensible and sustainable level."

Coasting beyond the comfort zone

GOLF is still a good way of entertaining clients and for decades it's been a joke that more deals are done on the greens than in the boardroom.

But not everyone is into swinging clubs at a tiny ball, trying to get it into what looks like an impossibly small hole far down the fairway.

Yes, it's a slow game and you can take your time getting to know someone, but there are other client-friendly activities.

Bowling, for example, is a good way to work out as well as give clients a chance to sit and chat after the games. And, of course, indoor bowling doesn't depend on the weather.

Also, many firms have been renting small boats or chartering a yacht to get clients out of their comfort zones.

There are many deals available at marinas or through private boat owners, and sometimes a vessel can be hired for a trip up the Thames or along the coast.

Big sporting events, such as football and racing, also give firms a chance to take over a box to entertain clients and this has proved very popular and cost-effective for many.

It's all about making clients feel relaxed before they start talking details about deals.

Try to be imaginative. With many businesspeople wrestling with today's problems, being entertained in an unusual and fun way will more than impress them.

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hospitality means business – special report

No reservations about return of personal touch

THERE had been fears that reservations sections in hotels may have been on the endangered business species list – but they're still very much alive.

Internet website bookings rose sharply and this led to a corresponding decline in the call volumes to reservation teams.

But that has levelled off, and with more firms and organisations seeking good value, bargain deals for conferences, hospitality and meetings at venues, a voice at the end of a telephone is becoming more important.

It's difficult to know if the person booking has already been online, or if they book online after talking to reservations direct, but there are some common threads about the level of

By **TONY PATEY**

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contact. The choice online is mind-blowing, so callers can sometimes be over-informed, even to the extent of online comments by people who have already been to the venues.

However, a recent trend has been a tougher line by callers. Deal-seekers are now more likely to haggle over the price – “Is that the best deal you can do? X down the road has offered a lower rate of Y”, or “Do you have any special discounts or deals coming up?” – but some are being really street smart.

A tale from the United States tells of a well-travelled businessman who, whenever he goes to a new city, looks up online the biggest company there. He then just uses that name



SMILES BETTER: Clients prefer a friendly voice on the line to website booking

when he telephones a local hotel and asks for the usual “special corporate rate”.

Apparently, it works well and he's never been asked for a business card to show he really is from that company. Correct reservation team training is needed to make sure the potential client is not ‘let loose’ back online, that the added value and unique selling points are made professionally, and push any extras at the venue.

If there are rooms with a very low rate – if they're located inconveniently or there's no view – reservation staff can still stress that all the usual services and facilities are still available. In other words, talk them up.

Venue operators should take time training their front-line staff so that clients get a good response, and staff should be monitored over short times every week.

Study reveals where savings are being made

EMPLOYERS have cut spending on client entertaining and business travel as they look for other ways of reducing costs rather than go for damaging redundancies, a study revealed last week.

Some 38 per cent of organisations reported that they had reduced business travel expenditure, with cuts likely to be deeper in the private sector than the public sector, according to a survey of almost 900 employers conducted by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and consultants KPMG.

More than a half said they had cut client entertaining, while about 60 per cent of employers had cut travel expenditure, reducing international trips, and 69 per cent said they had cut the expenses staff are allowed to claim. Almost two-thirds reduced the use of first-class travel.

And a similar proportion of employers increased their use of tele/videoconferencing, while 43 per cent increased their use of public transport, the study reported.

It said: “While redundancies have understandably been making the headlines, ‘surviving’ employees have also been affected by the credit crunch.”



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hospitality means business – special report

Positioned for the upswing

THERE'S a lot of angst in the business entertainment and hospitality scene that industry observers report they haven't seen the like of in 40 years.

The problem is made worse because venues are sometimes fighting a rearguard battle renegotiating existing deals and talking groups out of cancelling altogether because of cost-cutting.

They don't have time to go out and grab short- and long-term business, and sometimes the very people who should be doing that, the talented sales and marketing teams, have been downsized, cut back on time or fired.

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

There's one thing that's copper-bottom certain about a recession: we will, one day, come out of it.

Then where will be the venues which haven't tried to keep their brands, added value and unique selling points before the world?

Cutting back on sales and marketing now risks facing even greater challenges when the market turns upward again.

Recapturing the market will be top of the agenda, and there will be new rivals who have come in lean and mean.

Many of those new competitors will be ex-

staff who know your strengths and weaknesses. Smarter and tighter controls need to be applied, but progress needs to be monitored so budgets are justified and effective. E-marketing and the venue's website will be key tools in this scenario.

And the direct sales team needs to be focused and positioned so that it goes after prospects which are the most likely and able to sign.

There must be tight integration and focus, again, on branding along with USP, and electronic and print advertising. That way, venues will be strong enough to spring forward when the upturn comes.

In fact, Fred W Smith, chief executive officer of Federal Express, has put his head above the

parapet and said in Los Angeles he expects the US economy to improve by late summer or early autumn. And former White House economic policy director Todd Buchholz said in San Diego that there will be "an economic recovery just in time for back-to-school sales in September".

So the message is quite clear to venues: ride it out and push the value-added service that you can offer. Bookings will still come to those that remain high profile.

For example, get a public relations firm that is expert in web marketing to embed search terms in client's press releases related to a company's particular niche in the marketplace, and blogging can be useful for some venues.

A Hands-on approach to hotel chain

SEVENOAKS millionaire Guy Hands has invested some of his wealth in a luxury chain of hotels called Hand Picked Hotels, run by his wife Julia.

Mr Hands, who runs private equity firm Terra Firma which took over music group EMI in 2007, has set up the headquarters of the hotel group in his home town.

It has 17 country house hotels across the UK and Jersey, and has just launched new pricing and incentives for business, meeting and events customers. There are two in Kent – Brandshatch Place in Fawkham Green, and Chilston Park in Lenham. Packages include a free dinner for guests that com-

bine a meeting with an overnight stay, a 10 per cent discount on meetings taking place before the end of August, when confirmed within 10 days, and a chance for conference and event bookers to earn rewards on bookings of £3,500 or more.

Hand Picked Hotels has locations ranging from the New Forest and Jersey to Yorkshire and Edinburgh.

Thirteen have achieved two AA rosette status, with Norton House Hotel and Spa in Edinburgh winning three AA rosettes.

In 2007, Julia Hands was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to the hospitality industry.



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hospitality means business – special report

Coach firm up for cup with Peter

GILLINGHAM-based coach operator The Kings Ferry hosted the FA Cup on the first day of International Confex 2009, a leading trade show for conference and event organisers.

England and Newcastle United football legend Peter Beardsley made a surprise guest appearance and joined more than 160 show

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

visitors who had their picture taken with the famous trophy.

The firm was promoting its full range of coach hire and VIP services. It was also the first time the company highlighted Connections, a dedicated division that provides coach travel for small- and large-scale



THE OLD TIN POT: Senior management at The Kings Ferry Travel Group with former England international Peter Beardsley (second right) and the FA Cup trophy

events alike. The Kings Ferry is also a leading provider of VIP transport for the music and football industries, providing coach services for the Champions League, Premiership and Championship as well as regional teams, supporters and international sides.

"Football is something we know and love well, so hosting the FA Cup ensured our exhibition campaign got off to a cracking start," said Danny Elford, commercial director.

"We were delighted to be able to offer guests

something extra special and have fun in the process."

The Kings Ferry is playing a big part in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. As the whole of London's East End goes through a period of rapid change it will provide tours for small and large groups aimed at taking in the main sites of interest during the next three years.

For businesspeople, they'll be providing trips for VIP groups – a good way of entertaining your clients.

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Smarter strategies will make the most of assets

VENUE operators, especially hotels, need to make the most of the assets – the merchandise – that they've got.

Now is the time to bring in some smarter revenue management strategies, so while it may be tougher and almost impossible to increase revenue, they can make the most of what they already have.

For example: train staff to push upgrades when guests check in, and offer them incentives to do so. And add some extra little touches such as food, beverage and toiletries merchandising in guest rooms, bars, restaurants and online.

Also, they should beware of wholesalers asking them to lower rates and offer free nights, because they may be not able to afford to and they could be locked into long-term deals which will hamper them when the upturn comes.

Check out the competition. Contact rivals to see what they're offering and visit their websites every day to be aware of rate changes and special web-only offers. Even make visits to check out the territory.



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'Walking up stairs was exhausting'

Young tennis ace Cavaday on how fatigue nearly derailed her career

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

NAOMI Cavaday is set to return to a full playing schedule later this month after completing a long recovery from the worst injury of her fledgling career.

The Chislehurst tennis player, who turns 20 next month, saw her steady progress up the rankings brought to a sudden halt by a post-viral infection last year. After struggling with tiredness for most of season, after losing in qualifiers for the US Open last August it came to a head.

"The doctors said I was incredibly fatigued," she said. "It had been going on for a while but it got to the point where I couldn't play anymore and that was it for the rest of the year."

"I was struggling and tired all the time, just walking up three steps was exhausting. As an athlete it was very worrying."

Cavaday was unable to return to the tennis court for three months. It was a demoralising period in which her world ranking, which had peaked at 183 last March, tumble towards 300.

In November she had recovered enough to return light training, which has gradually intensified.

Her competitive return came at a low-key event in Wrexham six weeks ago. Unsure of

what condition she was in, Cavaday surprised herself by reaching the semi-finals.

It was followed last month by reaching the last eight at Sutton and another semi-final appearance in a more high-profile event in Stockholm.

She said: "It's been frustrating but I've used it positively and been more determined to get out there and succeed when I came back."

"I've done three events now so I've proved to myself I'm back to full fitness and ready to return to a full programme."

The encouraging displays have lifted Cavaday up to 258 in the rankings and she intends to travel to North America next week to resume a full calendar.

With all the time spent away from the game she is reluctant to make too many predictions for this season.

"I feel like I'm just getting started again so I'm trying not to look too far ahead. I would be really pleased to use the year as a platform for next year", she said.

"If I can get back into Grand Slam qualifying, inside the top 200, that would be great. I would love to achieve more than that and I'm always aiming for more, but if I could do that it would give me something to build on."

One incentive to improving her ranking is to earn a wild card for Wimbledon, where she has performed well against former champions Martina Hingis and Venus Williams in the last two tournaments.



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

TIRED OUT: Naomi Cavaday, pictured at Wimbledon last year, is on the road to recovery after suffering from fatigue

Women's tennis in this country has been in the doldrums for a generation, but is showing signs of resurgence.

British number one Anne Keothavong recently broke into the top 50 and teenager Laura Robson is a potential star of the future after winning the Wimbledon junior title last year. Both their achievements have been an inspiration to Cavaday.

She said: "It's great to see them doing so well. Anne's done incredibly well after years of trying and her performances show it can be done. It makes me feel if she can do it why can't I?"



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Players cue up for the Crucible

KENT'S top snooker players face arguably their biggest games of the season on Tuesday as they bid to book their place in the World Snooker Championships.

Barry Hawkins and Gerrard Greene are both one win away from the sport's blue riband event at the Crucible next month.

Of the pair, Greene faces the tougher test to reach the televised stages after being drawn against 1997 champion Ken Doherty. The 35-year-old from Rainham set up the tie after a 10-6 win against China's Liu Song in the penultimate qualifying round at the English Institute of Sport (EIS) in Sheffield.

Greene is looking to make his fourth appearance at the World Championships, but Doherty represents one of the toughest players he could have been drawn against.

The Irishman has six ranking tournament victories to his name and while his powers are waning, the world number 18 is still a formidable opponent.

Hawkins has never won a game in his three previous appearances at the Crucible. The 29-year-old from Dartford will be optimistic of having a chance to put it right after he was drawn young Welsh potter Daniel Wells, who is provisionally ranked 77.

Other players fighting for a place in the last 32 at the EIS over the next three days include multiple former world champions Steve Davis and Mark Williams.



Picture: REX FEATURES

QUALIFYING: Barry Hawkins is aiming to qualify for the World Championships



CRASHED OUT:
Shane Byrne
Picture: STERILGARDA DUCATI

The shakiest of starts

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne made a disastrous start to the World Superbike Championship as he crashed out of both opening rounds of the season last weekend.

The Sheppey rider failed to finish either of the races, losing control of his Sterilgarda Ducati on the tight and twisty Phillip Island circuit in Australia.

In race one Byrne struggled to keep pace with the leading pack and crashed out of 15th

place on lap eight. The crash injured his hand, but he was fit enough to line up on the grid for race two. He did well to climb up to 11th place before again crashing out.

The reigning British Superbike Champion was left to rue his misfortune and look ahead to the next round of the championship.

Byrne told the team website: "It was bad luck. I had a good start in race one, but I noticed that the tyres were

slipping in an odd way in the early laps. I tried to recover, but after seven laps I slipped. "I had a pretty good start, but after 11 laps, while I was trying to overtake [Jakub] Smrz, I got very wide on the final corner and I crashed.

"Nevertheless, I started to understand how hardfought the SBK is."

Byrne will hope for better luck in round two of the championship at Losail in Qatar on March 14.

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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



TARGET: Mark Stimson wants to sign Brentford midfielder Glenn Poole

Stimmo aims to Poole resources to sign midfielder

GILLINGHAM will make an approach for Brentford midfielder Glenn Poole this summer if their attempts to bring him in on loan this season fail.

The 28-year-old played for Mark Stimson earlier in his career at Grays Athletic and the Gills boss was hoping to sign the left winger on loan to strengthen his squad in the final two months of the season.

Poole was reportedly available before last weekend but when Stimson made a request a week ago the League Two leaders turned it down. Bees boss Andy Scott told local newspapers Poole, who has not played for a month, is still in his plans and had no interest in letting him go to a promotion rival.

Despite Scott's unambiguous stance, Stimson is not giving up hope and revealed if he failed he would try again at the end of the season.

He said: "I've just told his adviser that if it does change then ring me straight away."

"If we don't do anything now then in summer I would definitely be interested in him because he's a player I know well and can affect a game."

Gills have other wide left midfielders on their shortlist ahead of the March 26 deadline, after which point clubs cannot sign players until the summer.

But Stimson reiterated he would only add quality to his squad: "We won't be bringing someone in to sit on the bench because I don't think teams would let them and it would be a waste of time and energy. If we're going to bring someone in they've got to play."

Revamped F2 to boost motorsport



Brands chief says new-look series can develop stars of the future like Hamilton

By **TOM HOWARD**

THE rebirth of a lean, cost-effective FIA Formula Two Championship will help produce the next Lewis Hamilton, according to Brands Hatch circuit owner Jonathan Palmer.

After 25 years in the wilderness, the series will return in May following a successful bid from Palmer's company MotorSport Vision, which has ploughed £5 million into the venture.

The new championship provides budding Formula One hopefuls with a competitive championship in identical cars.

Budget

They will race all over the world on a budget of £200,000, peanuts in motorsport terms and a quarter of the costs for racing in GP2 – Formula One's current feeder series. The prize for the champion is a test with the Williams Formula One team.

Palmer believes it will produce the next wave of Formula One drivers and provide a more affordable approach compared to rival championships.

He told Kent on Sunday: "I would be failing if I didn't believe Formula Two will be the new feeder series to Formula One. It is going to take a while as GP2 is a very successful championship but given the climate, the cost of GP2 is not sustainable."



NEW WAVE: Jonathan Palmer's company has injected £5m into F2 and believes the series can develop F1's stars of the future

"Another powerful motivator is the cost of a season in this current climate, which has drawn people to the series. I think with Formula Two being affordable and a level

playing field, the guys at the front should be exceptional talents."

The car, designed by the Williams Formula One team, was unveiled at the Kent circuit this week by Palmer and team principal Sir Frank Williams as part of the circuit's season launch.

Palmer, a former Formula Two champion, admitted seeing the car going around Brands Hatch was a particularly proud moment.

He said: "I think it's going to be a great significance in motorsport. It was thought to be impossible to meet the tender criteria and run a car for £200,000. It has been a hell of a project, but Williams have done more than I expected and have built a great car."

MotorSport Vision will run the series and with the opening round of the season taking place at Valencia in May all 24 drives in the series have been sold. It will head to Brands Hatch for rounds seven and eight on July 19.

After losing the popular World Superbike Championship from the 2009 calendar, Palmer insists a bumper British Superbike Championship meeting is planned to replace it on August 9.

He added: "It is disappointing not to have World Superbikes but the fee the promoters wanted was double what we paid in 2008. We are going to be adding some further entertainment and I am confident it will be better than the World Superbike event."

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Picture: ADY KERRY



Blowers' top picks

Henry Blofeld, the doyen of the BBC's Test Match Special Team, was in Maidstone last week performing his new show at the Hazlitt Theatre. Before the performance he took time out to tell **FRED ATKINS** who he would pick for his all-time Kent XI.

THERE are many ways to curtail a promising cricketing career, such as arguing with your coach or repeatedly missing net practice, though few are quite as emphatic as the one that meant Henry Blofeld fell into journalism.

'Blowers' was tipped to make the grade as a cricketer when he was hit by a bus while cycling to a game. He spent a month in a

coma and though he emerged to play for Cambridge University, his injuries meant he never played at the highest level.

By that time Blofeld was working as a cricket journalist. His first assignment was to cover Kent at the old Bat and Ball ground in Gravesend.

"They haven't played there in about 40 years," Blofeld said, though if he laments the passing of the outground era, he recognises the economic logic that has seen the demise of festivals at Dartford, Dover,

Folkestone and most recently Maidstone.

"They just can't afford to keep playing there," Blofeld admits. "They go to very great expense carting all the equipment around and of course it's sad, but it's a fact of life now."

He may be slightly prone to exaggeration, but there can be few broadcasters or journalists alive today better qualified than Henry Blofeld to select an all-time Kent XI, having, by his own estimation, covered Kent "thousands of times".

Here, in batting order, are HENRY BLOFELD'S choices for his all-time best Kent XI

1 LES AMES (1905-1990): The Eltham-born, Harvey Grammar School-educated wicketkeeper is in purely as an opening batsman. Played 47 Tests and scored 102 first-class centuries.

2 BRIAN LUCKHURST (1939-2005): Despite the nickname 'Lucky', Sittingbourne's Luckhurst was unfortunate to play just 21 Tests, averaging 36.05.

3 COLIN COWDREY (1932-2000): Aside from scoring nearly 43,000 first-class runs and being the first man to play 100 Tests, arguably merits inclusion just for the 1974-75 Ashes series, when he shuffled out to bat aged 42 and said to Jeff Thomson: "I don't believe we've met. My name's Cowdrey."

4 FRANK WOOLLEY (1887-1978): Described by Wisden as one of the greatest left-handed all-rounders of all-time, Tonbridge-born Woolley played 64 Tests, scoring 145 first-class centuries.

5 ASIF IQBAL (1943-): 'Blowers' was allowed one overseas player and ignored several big names to select the controversial former Pakistan skipper.

6 PERCY CHAPMAN (1900-1961): Blofeld's choice as captain, he skippered England to the Ashes in 1926.

7 ALAN KNOTT (1946-): "Probably the best wicket-keeper I ever saw," says Blofeld of the Belvedere-born gloveman, rejecting the rival claims of Godfrey Evans and others.



DEADLY: Derek Underwood

8 DEREK UNDERWOOD (1946): Known as 'Deadly' for his lethal left-arm spin, Bromley's Underwood once took 8-9 on a rain-affected wicket at Hastings.

9 DOUG WRIGHT (1914-1998): Sidcup spinner who took seven hat-tricks in a 25-year career and was one of Don Bradman's most-feared opponents.

10 GRAHAM DILLEY (1959-): Dartford's Dilley is Blofeld's opening bowler – and the only member of his XI still (just) under 50!

11 ARTHUR FIELDER (1877-1949): Plaxtol's most famous son once took 10 wickets in an innings for the Players against the Gentlemen at Lord's and still ended up on the losing side.

Kent on Sunday sports editor GLENN PEARSON has listed a more modern-day Kent XI to take on the stars of yesteryear.

1 ROB KEY (1998-PRESENT): If he just misses out on Blowers' XI then he fits perfectly in mine. The constant calls for an England return tells of his recent batting form.

2 MARK BENSON (1980-1996): Known for his ability against the quick bowlers and led Kent well during his spell as skipper.

3 MARTIN VAN JAARSVELD (2005-PRESENT): Scored more than 1,000 runs in his first two seasons and was named 2008 PCA Player of the Year.

4 ARAVINDA DA SILVA. (1995): Tough choice between 'Ari' and Carl Hooper, but the Sri Lankan just gets the nod, maybe just for that 112 in the 1995 Benson and Hedges Cup final.

5 TREVOR WARD (1986-1999): Usually an opener but is brought in to toughen up my middle order.

6 MARK EALHAM (1989-2004): Ealham snags the all-rounder's spot in my side. A good medium pace bowler who could demolish any bowling attack in the world when in form.

7 GERAINT JONES (2001-PRESENT): Tough choice between Jones and Steve Marsh for the wicketkeeper's spot, but Jones just gets it for his batting.

8 MIN PATEL (1989-2008): Patel played more than 200 games for



Picture: ADY KERRY

MAKES MY TEAM: Rob Key

the county, mostly as the club's number one spinner. Also handy with the bat.

9 DEAN HEADLEY (1993-2001): Deano will be long remembered by all Kent fans for his displays for both the county and England.

10 RICHARD ELLISON (1981-1993): Took 71 wickets in a county season and also claimed 10 wickets against Australia in 1985.

11 DUNCAN SPENCER (1993-1994): A controversial inclusion but I witnessed 'that spell' against Viv Richards at St Lawrence in 1993 when the West Indian described him as the fastest he had ever faced.

LYDIA GREENWAY'S WORLD CUP Diary

Lydia Greenway is blogging for KOS Media from Australia where the England women's cricket team challenge for the ICC Women's World Cup



'Now we're ready for the real thing'

AFTER a convincing win against New South Wales, we knew our warm-up game against Australia on Monday was going to be a tough one.

The Aussies are always very competitive but going into the game we felt confident and eager to get amongst it.

Winning the toss we put them in. This is something we have done in the past as we feel confident as a team about chasing down the runs.

Alex Blackwell was the rock of their innings, making 91 not out, but we were pleased to restrict them to 214.

Up until the 30th over we looked comfortable but fell short by 20-odd runs. The words 'frustrated' and 'disappointed' were an understatement.

There was no time to dwell on our mistakes as we went on to our final warm-up game against West Indies on Wednesday.

We beat them comfortably by 116 runs and now we feel ready to get our World Cup campaign on the road.

Off the field my parents have arrived in Sydney for the World Cup, which for us began yesterday with a game against Sri Lanka. It's been great to see them and catch up as I haven't seen them for ages because I have been playing over here since October.

England continue their World Cup campaign on Tuesday against India.

Khan he deliver the goods for England?

ENGLAND'S newest debutant Amjad Khan has a golden chance to make a name for himself ahead of this summer's Ashes series, according to Kent coach Simon Willis.

The 28-year-old Kent bowler was preferred to experienced seamer Ryan Sidebottom for the final Test against West Indies in Trinidad, which started on Friday.

It marks a remarkable comeback for the Danish-born bowler, who only returned to Kent's line-up last year after spending more than a year out of the game with a serious knee injury.

Willis, who along with a host of other backroom staff helped Khan through his injury nightmare, said: "He's put in a hell of a lot of hard work over the last 18 months. Playing cricket for England is something he's always aspired to."

"Hopefully, he can make the most of his chance, in the past Trinidad has been a favourable pitch for the bowlers. It's a massive summer for English cricket with the Ashes; it's all there for the taking."

Khan was only called into the squad last month as cover for the injured Andrew Flintoff. England must win to square the series.



DEBUT: England bowler Amjad Khan

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

What do you think of these two line-ups? Let us know your thoughts and your Kent XI by leaving a comment at www.kentnews.co.uk.

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CRICKET

Radio cricket expert
Henry Blofeld picks
his top Kent XI **103**

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

'I'M NOT FINISHED'

Picture: ADY KERRY



LUCKY ESCAPE: Paul Farbrace was with the Sri Lanka team targeted by terrorists in Lahore and (main pic) the team are airlifted to safety after the attack



Ex-Kent coach says he will not give up on Sri Lanka job despite terrorist attack

By DAVID PRITCHARD

PAUL Farbrace says he has "unfinished business" and will not walk away from his role as Sri Lanka's assistant coach, despite miraculously escaping a terrorist attack in Pakistan this week.

The former Kent coach walked away with minor arm injuries after the coach carrying the Sri Lanka cricket team was ambushed in Lahore on Tuesday. Incredibly, none of the tourists died in the carnage, but six police-man and the driver of another vehicle were killed.

Farbrace, 41, left Kent to join Sri Lanka in 2007 and while he admitted the attack had made him question his position, it was not going to force him out.

Speaking from his hospital bed in Sri Lankan capital Colombo, he told Kent on Sunday: "You do have those thoughts but at this stage my thoughts are to stay here with the team. I've got a fantastic job, it's a great place to be and I feel there's unfinished business cricket-wise. I just hope it doesn't put people off and we can carry on."

"This is one of those occasions when you forget about cricket, but I would like to think it will keep moving forward, I think it's really important that it does."

Ex-England batsman Chris Broad, one of the umpires for the Lahore Test, was highly critical of the security provided by the Pakistani authorities. CCTV pictures of the terrorists sauntering away from the scene have angered some, but Farbrace says he has no time for bitterness.

He said: "I'm grateful I'm alive and I'm grateful to the driver's skill and calm thinking to get us out of the situation."

"Also to the people around us that did their best for us. Obviously it's desperately sad when anybody dies and people died outside

PAUL FARBRACE relives the moments the Sri Lanka team bus was attacked

"I don't remember too much about it. The four or five of us that ended up in hospital were sitting together. The team are superstitious about their seats and we always sit in the same position."

"I was leaning against the window talking back across the aisle to the guys on the other side. We were close to the ground and then I heard some popping and banging. I've not heard that sort of thing before and it didn't really register with me."

"Then I heard 'get down, get down' and then gunfire. I was lying on the floor half out of my seat and half in the aisle when something came through the side of the bus and

hit me in the arm. That's when I saw blood on the floor and realised it was coming from me."

"There were shouts towards the driver to keep going. I've heard reports the bus had to reverse, apparently two cars tried to block the bus so we came to a standstill. I couldn't say if we had to reverse to go round them, I don't remember anything other than lying there hoping and praying that the next thing that came through the side of the bus didn't hit me."

"Tharanga Paranavitana, who was sat directly behind me, had been hit in the chest and was still sat upright in his seat."

"The physio and the fitness guy who sit opposite me were pulling at his legs to get him on the floor so he was no longer in the firing line."

of the bus who were there to protect us.

"I haven't really got any thoughts on security, my thoughts are purely for the lads who are here in hospital and the families of the people who died. We met up with our coach driver when we got away from Lahore and hugged him and thanked him."

"He had four children, it's people like that who were doing a basic job and suddenly they're put into an horrendous situation. My thoughts are with people like that rather than the security."

The consequences of the attack for Pakistan are yet to fully emerge, but it is unlikely the country will host any international cricket for the foreseeable future. Their presence in other countries may also cause problems, with their tour to Bangladesh next week being scrapped.

It has put Pakistan's co-hosting of the 2011 World Cup with India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in jeopardy.

Farbrace understandably does not want to go back soon, but emphasised the need for cricket to return to the country in the future.

He said: "I don't think I'd go back at this particular stage, that would need some careful consideration. I think a cricket team playing in Pakistan in the short-term is not going to happen, but in the future that will change and teams will go back there."

"The two times we've been there in the last nine months prior to this tour it's been a very enjoyable trip. It's a good place to be, the people are cricket-mad and a lot were keen to tell us they were grateful we were there. It's a great shame for those people."

David Ian

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